

Hafa Adai!

IPI workers in limbo, others return home. **PAGE 2**
CNMI Census warns of fake employees. **PAGE 3**

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FBI sought records from 2013 onwards

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In their search warrants last Nov. 6, 2019, the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized records, documents, and other communications that date as far back as September 2013, when the CNMI government was still in the process of selecting who its sole casino licensee would be.

One of the warrants was executed on Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's accounting office along Puerto Rico on Nov. 7, 2019, authorizing FBI agents to seize all documents, records, and prop-

See FBI on Page 4

CHCC report: Revenue at \$58.6M in FY 2019

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is highly dependent on CNMI Medicaid's ability to pay for services, as reimbursements from the agency is about 44% of its total revenue.

In its fiscal year 2019 Citizen Centric Report, CHCC said its total revenue in fiscal year 2019 was \$58.57 million. Of that number, \$23.35 million or 44% came from private payers, Medicare, and other sources of funding.

Private payers included
See CHCC on Page 4



SOLAR POWER PROJECT

Photo shows the ongoing solar power project at the Commonwealth Health Center's parking lot. The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and its contractor, Micronesia Renewable Energy Inc., initially expected the project to be completed by February 2020, but it is now expected to be done by January.

MARC A. VENUS

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Page 5

CNMI employees receive US Court award

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The staff of the U.S. District Court for the NMI clerk of court's office, judicial chambers, and probation and pre-

trial services, were among the awardees in the 2019 Administrative Office of the U.S. Court's Director's Awards for overcoming the challenges of two devastating typhoons in
See CNMI on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, second on the front row, and U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, extreme right, join District Court employees in a group photo.

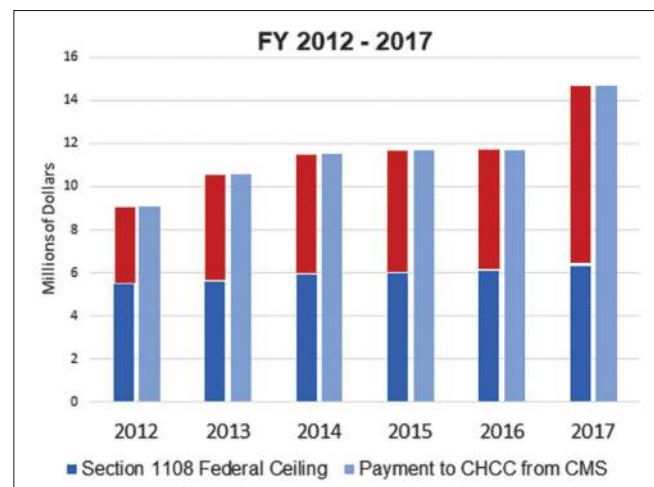


Chart indicates the funding the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. receives through Section 1108 and payments from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from fiscal years 2012-2017. The red bars indicate the amount of money the CNMI government would have needed to pay CHCC during these years without additional Affordable Care Act funds.

CHCC FY2019 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT

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A problem that plagues small islands states is where to put their growing amount of trash.

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BUSINESS

Casa Décor on Middle Road wants to help you build your dream living space.

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ASIA

Hong Kong police corner protesters inside a university campus.

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Saturday, November 30, 2019

- Illumination of Christmas Tree Lights
- Elementary Schools Caroling Contest

Saturday, December 7, 2019

- High School & Junior High /Middle School Caroling Contest

Saturday, December 14, 2019

- Christmas in The Marianas Parade

6:00 PM, Garapan Fishing Base to Paseo de Marianas

- Costume Contest
- Awards Presentation

Saturday, December 21, 2019

- Skymark Night

Saturday, December 28, 2019

- Mochitsuki Festival at 6:00 PM
- Closing of Christmas in The Marianas







SPECIAL THANKS TO
 Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) • Department of Public Lands (DPL)
 Department of Public Safety (DPS) • Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS)
 • Lollipop • Hard Rock Cafe Saipan • Furusato • Century Tours • Century Tours/iShop



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A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Local

IPI workers in limbo, others return home

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The workers who were forced to resign from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC remain in limbo, as other have decided to return home. *Saipan Tribune* learned that over 80 of the 157 workers who were forced to resign agreed to return home after receiving their checks for their last pay period.

One of the workers, who agreed to resign and requested anonymity, told *Saipan*

Tribune that he is unsure of what to do at this point as he talked to the other workers about their options. He said that they were replaced by new Mongolian workers and that they were forced to resign without prior knowledge. The worker also confirmed that he was paid by IPI and received a minor incentive.

He said the remaining workers who have stayed are in the process of moving back to Taiwan since they have already been paid by IPI, but a

handful of others are unsure of what to do in the coming days.

The workers hold temporary worker visas, called H2B visas, which expire on January 2020. They were reportedly forced by IPI to resign from their jobs last Nov. 6, with no idea why. Dismayed, the workers marched to the U.S. Department of Labor office at the Marina Heights Business Park in Puerto Rico to plead their case, then walked over to the Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel to protest in front of the casino, Imperial Pacific Resort.

Initially, the workers were looking for a form of compensation after being forced

to resign months before their permits expire. *Saipan Tribune* also learned from the worker that he overheard management talk about the Taiwanese workers being paid at an "expensive rate" and they needed to find an alternative source of workers to continue construction of the Imperial Pacific Resort.

IPI reported that 314 H2B Taiwanese workers and 150 H2B Mongolian workers have been working on the project as of last month. It is unclear how many Taiwanese H2B workers are currently working on IPI's project and there have been no response from IPI to *Saipan Tribune's* attempts to get an update.

3 FY 2020 grants now open to US insular areas

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Three grant programs under the Office of Insular Affairs are now accepting applications for fiscal year 2020 funding: the Technical Assistance Program, the Maintenance Assistance Program, and the Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative.

This funding is made available to support the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Freely Associated States: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"We encourage as many applicants as possible to apply for fiscal year 2020 funding," said Doug Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary, Insular and International Affairs. "I look forward to assisting each island area by supporting priority issues through the available funding."

■ **Technical Assistance Program** funding is available for short-term projects intended to meet the immediate needs of the U.S. insular areas. Funding priorities include, but are not limited to, projects that foster development in the following categories: accountability, financial management, economic development, education, energy production, management control initiatives, disaster assistance, natural and cultural resources, capacity building, public safety/emergencies, information technology, health initiatives, and invasive species management.

■ **Maintenance Assistance Program** funding is used to support, develop, improve, and institutionalize infrastructure maintenance practices in the U.S. insular areas. Activities that support maintenance training to extend the life of island infrastructure, ensure the safety of maintenance technicians, and/or increase the capacity of infrastructure to withstand extreme events are encouraged.

■ **Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative** funding is available to improve the health of coral reef ecosystems and other natural resources in the U.S. insular areas for their long-term economic and social benefit. Priority will be given to projects that help address a variety of threats to coral reef ecosystems and to eradicating aquatic and terrestrial plant, insect, and animal invasive species.

Applications will be considered from insular government entities, educational institutions, or non-profit organizations whose grant proposals directly benefit the four U.S. territories or three Freely Associated States. Complete instructions for applications may be found on the OIA website at: <https://www.doi.gov/oia/financial-assistance>.

To apply, visit grants.gov and use CFDA# 15.875. The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2020, however, it is highly recommended that applications be submitted as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed beginning May 2020 once OIA receives full-year appropriations. (PR)

USCIS to deter fake asylum seekers from getting work authorizations

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced a proposed rule to deter aliens from illegally entering the United States and from filing frivolous, fraudulent or otherwise non-meritorious asylum applications in order to obtain employment authorization.

The proposed rule will better allow USCIS to extend protections to those with bona fide asylum claims. USCIS also seeks to prevent certain criminal aliens from obtaining work authorization before the merits of their asylum application are adjudicated.

The proposed rule stems from the April 29, 2019, Presidential Memorandum on Additional Measures to Enhance Border Security and Restore Integrity to Our Immigration System, which emphasizes that it is the policy of the United States to manage humanitarian immigration programs in a safe, orderly manner and to promptly deny benefits to those who do not qualify. Nothing in this rule changes eligibility requirements for asylum. Instead, this rule strengthens the standards that allow an alien to work on the basis of a pending asylum application.

"Our immigration system is in crisis. Illegal aliens are gaming our asylum system for economic opportunity, which undermines the integrity of our immigration system and delays relief for legitimate asylum seekers in need of humanitarian protection," said acting director Ken Cuccinelli. "USCIS must take steps to address pull factors encouraging aliens to illegally enter the United States and exploit our asylum framework. These proposed reforms are designed to restore

integrity to the asylum system and lessen the incentive to file an asylum application for the primary purpose of obtaining work authorization."

As directed by the presidential memorandum, USCIS proposes to:

■ Prevent aliens who entered the United States illegally from obtaining work authorization based on a pending asylum application, with limited exceptions; and

■ Automatically terminate employment authorization when an applicant's asylum denial is administratively final.

Additionally, USCIS proposes to:

■ Clarify that an asylum applicant's failure to appear for a required appointment may lead to dismissal of their asylum application and/or denial of their application for employment authorization;

■ Prevent aliens who fail to file their asylum application within one year of their latest entry as required by law from obtaining work authorization; and

■ Render any alien who has been convicted in the United States of any federal or state felony, or convicted of certain public safety offenses involving child abuse, domestic violence, or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, ineligible for employment authorization.

Unresolved arrests or pending charges may result in the denial of the application for employment authorization as a matter of discretion.

For more information, read the notice of proposed rule-making that publishes in the *Federal Register* on Nov. 14. The comment period ends on Jan. 13, 2020. (USCIS)

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Census Office advised the public yesterday to

CHCC said it continues to be vigilant vs dengue virus

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

With the CNMI in the middle of the rainy season, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. continues to be on the lookout for any occurrence or outbreak of dengue fever, according to a CHCC official.

Warren Villagomez, Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the PHEPP is coordinating with CHCC's Bureau of Environmental Health to maintain the corporation's vigilance against any incidence of dengue fever.

Citing the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, Villagomez said that, based on the DPSHSS' update for the entirety of last week, there has been no new cases of imported or local cases of the fever.

"This means that Guam is doing well in mitigating the [dengue] fever and that puts us in the CNMI in a better place,"

report people who claim to be field employees of the Census.

CNMI Census 2020 manager Claudio Norita told *Saipan Tribune* that his office received

he said.

He conceded that the rainy weather raises the presence of mosquitoes, but assured that CHCC remains vigilant, even if the possibility of the dengue virus in the CNMI remains low.

"With this current weather, we are refocusing our efforts to make sure that our surveillance monitoring activities are very active," Villagomez said.

The BEH has been doing vector inspections, which deals with the inspection and removal of debris that could become breeding sites of pests, technically called "vectors." Vectors include mosquitoes and rodents, as well as animals that carry diseases. The inspections are moving northward, starting in Koblerville, San Antonio, Afetna, and Chalan Kanoa.

CHCC encourages the public to "Fight the Bite" by taking actions to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes and remove possible breeding sites for mosquitoes.

CNMI Census warns of fake employees

news of individuals posing as census employees and asking for personal information.

"The CNMI 2020 Census does not have any employees doing any field work now. We intend to have our employ-

ees in the field by late January 2020," the memorandum from the CNMI Census office noted.

According to Norita, his office had been receiving reports of people posing as "Census

employees."

"I want to emphasize to the community that the 2020 CNMI Census has [no] employees out collecting data. We will not be rolling out our enumeration until late January

2020," he reiterated in a statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

"If people posing as census employees visit you, ask them for their census ID cards and report them to the Census Office at 682-2020," he added.

The memorandum released by his office yesterday further noted that, come January 2020, Census employees would not ask anyone for their social security number; their bank account or credit card numbers; PIN codes, passwords, or access information for credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts; money or donations; or contact anyone on behalf of a political party.

Prison, fines mulled for overcharging landlords

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A new Senate bill will not only make it illegal to overcharge power rates for apartments and other rented units, but also regulate the practice of operating with a master meter and submeter.

Noting that the NMI Administrative Code 50-10-340 allows commercial customers to allocate the cost of power among tenants while also prohibiting the reselling of power, Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) is seeking to clarify and regulate via an unnumbered bill what can and can't be done through master metering and submetering.

Santos' bill would still allow landlords, owners, operators, or managers of an apartment building or complex, residential multi-unit dwelling, commercial or office building, or shopping center to install sub-

metering equipment for each dwelling unit or commercial rental unit that is not individually or directly metered for power or water.

However, landlords, owners, operators, or managers of the units cannot impose charges different from what the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. already charges.

For power, that is 2 cents per kWh for the first 350 kWh of the month, then 9 cents for readings from 351 kWh to 1,200 kWh, and then 15 cents per kWh for readings over 1,201 kWh.

The bill imposes a "civil penalty" of not less than \$500 and not more than \$5,000 per violation, and/or imprisonment of not more than 30 days.

Santos chairs the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication.

In a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Santos noted

that she wants to impose a fine and some jail time for overcharging landlords, similar to what Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said in a separate statement to *Saipan Tribune*.

"CUC policy is very clear that no landlord can increase or add additional charges to what CUC bills the customer. That is the regulation and I stand by that," Santos earlier said.

This came about after Santos and Propst learned that landlords are charging some tenants on Saipan nearly 60 cents per kWh—a huge difference from what CUC typically charges.

The Office of the Attorney General had already noted that reselling power is illegal.

"We have tenants paying 42 cents to 60 cents a kilowatt hour. If this is not criminal, then it should be," Propst said in a previous social media post.

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Sablan talks impeachment

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI House of Representatives has enough cause to open in inquiry—independent of any criminal investigation—related to the ongoing Federal Investigation Bureau's probe of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several others, according to Rep. Christina Sablan (Ind-

» 'Issues at stake involving governor go beyond party lines, loyalties'

Saipan) yesterday.

"We do not have to wait for the grand jury to issue an indictment or for an arrest to be made," said Sablan

when asked for comments about some comments on social media about initiating an impeachment proceeding against Torres.

Sablan said the Legislature plays a critical role in providing checks and balances in the CNMI's system of government, and that they have the power to conduct oversight and investigations.

"Any impeachment process, should we come to that, would be separate from the criminal process, though evidence that is presented in criminal proceeding may be examined by the Legislature as well," she said.

The lawmaker said when there are executive abuses of power, whether through corruption, neglect of duty, or commissions of felonies, the

Legislature has a constitutional duty to respond.



Sablan

"The issues at stake go beyond party lines and loyalties. We are talking about our Constitution, public trust, and the integrity of our government," she said.

The FBI is looking into multiple possible

violations of federal laws that involve Torres, his family, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and other persons, resulting in the execution of search warrants on several sites last Nov. 7 and 8.

In February 2013, the House impeached then-governor Benigno R. Fitial on charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, days after he was impeached.

CHCC

From Page 1

Aetna Inc., Calvo's Insurance, Staywell Insurance, Moylan's Insurance, TakeCare Insurance, and Veterans/Tri Care Insurance. Other revenue comes from sources such as the cafeteria and various fees charged by CHCC.

CHCC also reported that it received just \$704,544 from local appropriations in fiscal year 2019, amounting to just 7% of its total appropriations.

CHCC reports that it also received funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and from the Social Security Office's Section 1108, which provides funding to U.S. territories for health care under a

certain price ceiling.

On the other hand, CHCC's lost revenue potential in fiscal year 2019 totaled \$77.23 million, with \$18.85 million (25%) falling under uncompensated care.

In addition, CHCC reported spending a total of \$70.33 million in fiscal year 2019. About 77% (\$44.46 million) were spent on personnel and medical supply costs, while the remaining 23% (\$25.87 million) were operational expenses at the hospital.

CHCC's response and recovery operations after Super Typhoon Yutu also resulted in an additional expense of \$3.15 million

Without improvements to Medicaid and other third-party reimbursements, and a reduction in the uninsured population, CHCC says it

will be "significantly hindered" from meeting its primary goal of providing quality and affordable care to the community and the CNMI.

"If cuts are made [on Medicaid funding], the CHCC would likely see an increase in charity and uncompensated care," the report also states.

Since 2011, the CNMI Medicaid Office has benefited from additional funding from the Affordable Care Act. Yet starting in October 2019, federal funding for the program has returned to pre-2011, as U.S. President Donald Trump has been pushing to repeal the ACA; this means the CNMI government will need to significantly contribute additional funding for the Medicaid program, or make significant cuts to benefits

and/or eligibility.

The CNMI Medicaid Office reports that roughly 28% of the CNMI's population relies on Medicaid in order to afford access to health care. Yet many CNMI residents are non-U.S. citizens, which makes them ineligible for Medicaid.

Despite these severe financing challenges, the CHCC report claims that it has made significant strides towards financial stability, with further gains expected in the future.

"CHCC's financial stability could improve with the reduction of the rate of uninsured patients in the CNMI through mechanisms such as employer-sponsored and government-sponsored health insurance," the report said.

CNMI

From Page 1

recent years.

The CNMI employees received the Director's Award for Extraordinary Actions, which was among the six areas given awards.

According to U.S. courts' article published last Nov. 14, employees from 10 federal courts have received the 2019 Director's Awards, which recognize outstanding performance, innovation, and dedication by employees throughout the Judiciary each year.

The recipients were nominated by colleagues based on career achievements and contributions to specific projects that have benefited their home courts and the federal Judiciary as a whole.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the swift action of the employees from the CNMI avoided what would've been a disastrous mold infection following the 2015 Typhoon Soudelor.

In her nominating letter, Manglona said the staff from the CNMI endured two major typhoons, yet continued to operate the court with minimal disruption, under extraordinary emotional and physical stress.

When Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan in August 2015, trees and power lines blocked many roads. Manglona said employees negotiated those barriers to get to the courthouse, where they quickly used vacuums and fans to begin drying out water damage.

With most of the island having no electricity, federal court employees worked with the U.S. Marshals Service and local agencies to ensure a supply of diesel fuel for a generator, Manglona said.

"This fueled generator not only allowed the court to reopen," Manglona said, "it was vital to reducing the humidity in the building to prevent dangerous and damaging mold growth."

In October 2018, Super Typhoon Yutu struck Saipan with sustained wind speeds of more than 170 miles per hour.

Manglona said Yutu's widespread devastation was shocking as the massive storm turned roofs into rubble while frightened inhabitants hid in backrooms, closets, and bathrooms.

Whereas the federal courthouse reopened in 10 days in 2015, the staff needed only five days to reopen in 2018. By the second storm, Manglona said, employees were well-versed in emergency

procedures.

"This knowledge meant the federal court remained available during a crisis," Manglona said.

She noted that employees also assisted each other with home cleanup, and during the power outage of 2015, even set up a makeshift home laundry center at the courthouse.

"The employees of the District Court for the NMI exemplified 'Marianas Strong' (the mantra of the island after Super Typhoon Yutu)." We are incredibly fortunate to work with these brave, compassionate, and steadfast employees," Manglona said.

Three U.S. probation officers from the District of Arizona—supervisory U.S. probation officer Winter Martinez, senior U.S. probation officer Cory Clever, and senior U.S. probation officer Jordan Gaiser—also received the same award for Extraordinary Actions.

The five other areas that were given awards were: Outstanding Leadership, Excellence in Court Operations/Administration, Excellence in Court Operations/Technology, Excellence in Court Operations/Support, and Excellence in Court Operations/Mission Requirements.

Margaret Wiegand, circuit

executive for the Third Circuit, received the Outstanding Leadership award.

Angela D. Caesar, clerk of court for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, was awarded Excellence in Operations/Administration.

Marcia M. Anderson, clerk of court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, received the Excellence in Operations/Administration award.

Michael Rhodes, clerk of court for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, was awarded Excellence in Operations/Administration.

Johnathan Wiltshire, a programmer analyst for the Northern District of Oklahoma, received the Excellence in Operations/Technology award.

Patricia S. Connor, clerk of court for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, was awarded Excellence in Operations/Support.

Laura Garcia-Hein, Spanish interpreter for the District of Nebraska, received the Excellence in Operations/Mission Requirements award.

Wade Warren, chief probation officer for the District of North Dakota, was awarded Excellence in Operations/Mission Requirements.

FBI

From Page 1

erty that date as far back as September 2013.

Saipan Tribune archives state that the late governor Eloy S. Inos, then-Senate president Ralph DLG Torres, then-Senate vice president Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) had announced on April 23, 2014, that their "fact-finding" trip to Hong Kong in late 2013 was paid for by "Esteem Capital."

This caused many to question the passage of then-House Bill 18-179 at the Legislature, which later became Public Law 18-38. Several also pointed out that the Office of the Public Auditor had raised concerns that the legislation was specifically tailored to favor Best Sunshine International Ltd., later known as IPI.

Bloomberg, a national media outlet, later reported in a story dated March 28, 2017, that "Esteem Capital" has ties with IPI, citing a Chinese gambler who testified in Hong Kong courts.

The media outlet reported that a Hong Kong high court judgment released on March 16, 2017, had reported that Ji Xiabo and Cai Lingli were representatives of Esteem Capital Success Ltd. in the fall of 2013.

Ji Xiaobo is one of the owners of IPI while Cai Lingli was director of the company and chairman of IPI's executive committee until late August 2018, according to Saipan Tribune archives.

It quoted Torres as saying in 2014, "I did receive a letter [in 2014 from Esteem]...thanking us for the opportunity to see at least the integrated resort, but they will not be able to participate in the bidding that just took place [in 2014]. So, the two companies that bid had no knowledge of, they are not the company that we met in Hong Kong."

The FBI search warrants looked for bank ac-

count information, account statements, wire transfer requests, financial statements, credit card account information, invoices, cancelled checks, credit reports, loan records, debt obligations, fee schedules, correspondence, applications, telephone records, or certificates of incorporation dated on or after Sept. 1, 2013, relating to transfers of funds or items greater than \$1,000 from IPI to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, brothers Vincent, Victorino, and Joaquin Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue, Ron Li Anderson, Legend Saipan (CNMI) LLC, Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, Torres Brothers LLC, or VR Company LLC; billing documents relating to the Torres brothers and companies; authorized withdrawals made by Ron Li Anderson from bank accounts which only he had signatory authority; all correspondence relating to tax matters between IPI, or any of its affiliates, and the CNMI government; all documents, records, and properties related to real estate transactions in the CNMI involving IPI or its affiliates; and many more, all dated on or before Sept. 1, 2013.

The search warrants included the Governor's Office, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC; Legend Realty Saipan; the Torres Brothers' law office, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' home, and vehicle.

The FBI, along with the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, also visited the Commonwealth Casino Commission Tuesday. CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero did not disclose the reason for their visit.

Saipan Tribune obtained last Thursday a copy of the U.S. District Court's subpoena commanding the IPI records custodian to testify before a grand jury. The District Court published the order on Nov. 6, 2019.

CHCC on track with solar panel project

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is “on schedule and could possibly end earlier than expected” its construction of the Commonwealth Health Center’s solar project, which

will take the form of a covered parking lot at CHC, with the roof made of solar panels.

Warren Villagomez, CHCC Public Health and Hospital Emergency Preparedness Pro-

gram director, confirmed that the contractor, Micronesia Renewable Energy Inc., is on schedule with the project and is expected to complete it in early 2020.

“At first, we were expecting the construction to end in February but, at this point, with no hinderances in the process, the project could be completed by January,” he said.

Villagomez conceded that heavy rainfall could possibly

delay the construction a bit but assured that the project can still be completed within the expected timeframe of January or February 2020.

By the end of this week or at the start of next week, the foundation will be dug up, Villagomez said, to pour concrete into the second half of the structure’s footing. The first half has been completed and concrete poles will be installed soon.

He said the solar panels are now being installed, but are not connected to CHC’s breaker system yet as this requires the full structure to be complete and must pass inspection of both CHCC and Micronesia Renewable Energy.

The project, called the Photovoltaic System Parking Shade Structure, was implemented to aid CHCC in its efforts to save on utility bills. CHCC estimates to save as much as \$700,000 a year on its utility bills once the project is completed.

The project was made possible after CHCC received a \$560,000 grant from the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs Energizing Insular Communities program. CHCC expects to use the money it will save from utility expenses for other services at the hospital.

CHC consumes a lot of energy due to 24-hour air-conditioning and its daily equipment use. *(Marc A. Venus)*

Jump in same-sex marriages also boosts visitor numbers

Are same-sex marriages contributing to Saipan’s tourism industry?

Based on the Saipan Mayor’s Office’s record of marriages, the CNMI has seen a 115% jump in the number of same-sex marriages being performed on the island, with 207 recorded from January to September this year, compared to the 96 recorded during same period in 2018.

Of these same-sex marriages this year, 39 are male-couple marriages, and 168 are female couples. The increase came from female couples, with last year’s count at 59.

While there have been such marriages among island residents, majority of the same-sex marriages are Chinese, according to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

“Most of our same-sex marriages are actually coming from China,” Apatang said. “I think it is easier for them to come here and get married. They can come to Saipan overnight, schedule a marriage through us [Saipan Mayor’s Office], come here, pay, and then we will perform their marriage.”

Apatang officiated the first same-sex marriage on the island

in July 2015, after it become legal in the Commonwealth on June 26, 2015, following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that it is unconstitutional to ban same-sex marriages.

“I have long supported the right of same sex couples to legally marry if they choose to enjoy the same privileges and protections as married heterosexual couples,” Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said. Sablan is a Pride Marianas ally, and a supporter of same-sex marriages.

“Love is love,” Sablan added. “It transcends everything. And I’m proud of our Marianas community for creating such a welcoming space for love in all its wonderful and diverse expressions.”

At the CNMI Ally Week celebration last September, the CNMI government recognized, through a proclamation, the progress made in expanding LGBTQ rights, as a reflection of advancing human rights, on the island.

Another ally, Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence executive director Maisie B. Tenorio, stresses that the roots of violence are nourished by oppressive belief systems.

“I look forward to the day that every single human will know that freedom. It’s about time we focus our energies on fighting oppression and violence, and celebrating love,” Tenorio said, adding that violence thrives on the belief that certain groups have the rights to oppress other groups.

“As an ally and an advocate

for the rights of all humans, I feel that people, no matter their gender or orientation, should be able to love and marry, if they believe in it, whomever they choose,” Tenorio said. “Our world needs more love and we should be celebrating all the ways that people love each other, not building walls and creating barriers.” *(Iva Maurin)*

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CNMI appliances vendors urged to participate in rebate program

The CNMI Division of Energy is inviting all interested home appliance distributors, retailers and vendors to register to participate in the CNMI State Energy Program-Energy-efficient/Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program as a qualified participating vendor or retailer partner of energy-efficient or Energy Star-rated appliances to encourage energy-efficiency and to promote the importance of energy conservation in the CNMI.

To participate and qualify as a registered participating distributor, retailer or vendor, interested parties must meet the following minimum requirements and perform the services, as stated below:

1. Must have the ability to supply, deliver, and install, new Energy-Efficient/Energy Star-rated qualified clothes washers, refrigerators, or room air conditioners. For more information on products that bear the Energy Star logo and listed on the Energy Star-qualified products, visit the website at www.energystar.gov.

In addition, the SEP-EE/ESARP will also qualify, under U.S. EPA standards, non-Energy Star-rated split-type room air-conditioning units

with seasonal energy efficiency ratio of 18.0 or higher.

2. Must be able to provide the following required services: 100% delivery and installation of new energy-efficient appliances, 100% haul-away of old appliances, 100%, Re-capturing of refrigerants, 100% decommissioning, disposal, and recycling of old and used appliances replaced by the program.

3. Must comply with all federal and CNMI laws and regulations relating to the proper recapturing, storage and disposal of all recovered refrigerants, oils, etc.

4. Must agree to adhere to any and all additional requirements of the program.

Letters of requests to participate in the program must be addressed to: Ms. Thelma B. Inos, Director, CNMI Energy Division Office, and must also include a statement, on official company letterhead, certifying that minimum requirements are met and that the above services could be performed.

Letters shall be submitted to, and received by the CNMI Energy Division Office, at House 1337, Ascencion Dr., Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:30pm on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019. *(PR)*

Marianas' Chief Taga Day Festival grows

The 2nd Chief Taga Day Festival last Oct. 1-6, 2019, attracted hundreds of festivalgoers from throughout the Marianas and beyond, a sign of the event's growing appeal among residents and visitors.

Highlighted by several presentations on the history and legend of indigenous Chamorro chief Taga, "Gineptin Ha'anen Taga" (Chief Taga Day Festival) was held on the island of Tinian, recorded as the place where Taga last lived and was buried.

The festival had a soft opening with cultural presentations throughout the week. Cultural practitioner Frank Rabon presented on historic dance, Rufina Mendiola shared about the Marianas' language immersion program and cultural preservation, historian Meleah Ramirez presented on the ancient Chamorro stone pillars called "latte," and Dr. Michael Bevacqua also presented to students. In addition, a Chamorro *sakman* (sailing canoe) arrived from Saipan on Oct. 3 at the fiesta grounds. The festival official opening ceremony was held on Oct. 4, 2019.

"Chief Taga is an example of the kind of durability that courses through our veins as Chamorro people," said Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan in his



Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider, ninth from right, is joined by other elected officials, presenters and dancers from the CNMI and Guam at the Chief Taga Day Festival on Tinian. Also pictured are Rep. Antonio Borja; Tinian Municipal Council chair Thomasa Palacios, council vice chair Esteven King, and council secretary Patrick Manglona; Saipan Municipal Council vice chair Antonia Tudela, and University of Guam professor Dr. Michael Bevacqua.

welcoming remarks. "One advice I would like to instill in all of you is to never forget your roots and where you come from. Always remember who you are and how you started, because we are a rare ethnic group of people. There is only one place in the world where Chamorro people come from, and that is in the Marianas."

The event is sponsored in part by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"Taga represents not only a person, but a way of life that we are celebrating this week,"

said MVA board member Warren Villagomez during the opening ceremony. "Today's visitor is looking for more than sun and beach—although Tinian also offers the best of that. Today's traveler is looking for authentic cultural local experiences, and this week's festival offers just that."

Cultural practitioners from throughout the Marianas supported the event: from Tinian, jewelry makers Banidosu-Matthew Cruz Masga and Peter Palacios, Jr., coconut frond weaver Jose M. San Nicolas,

coconut oil maker Magdalena San Nicolas, *talaya* (throw net) fisherman Peter Palacios; from Saipan, Chamorro medicine group Inetnun Amot yan Kutturán Natibu; from Rota, apprentice wood carver Richard Songsong Manglona and sling stone practitioner Lino Rosario; and from Guam, master body ornamentation craftswoman Julie "Jill" Be-

nave, master blacksmith Francisco Cruz Lizama, master bone carver Greg Techaira Pangelinan, master shrimp trap maker Rosita Yoshia San Nicolas, assistant shrimp trap maker Joseph Kenneth Yoshida San Nicolas, master storyboard/Guam seal/clock carver Tanya Beth Smau Taitano, and master *ifit* carver Robert Philip Taitano, Jr.

Chamorro dance troupes from Tinian, Saipan, Rota, and Guam participated in the event. Live music was also provided by Big J and JJ Concepcion, Island Kai, Marvin Deleon Guerrero, and Mr. Ukulele. Culinary demonstrations of various Chamorro dishes were offered. Although inclement weather forced the cancellation of several games and competition, teenagers had the chance to demonstrate their proficiency in using a traditional sling and blowing of the shell. In the sling stone throwing competition, Quiana Manglona and Kyle Cruz topped the female and male divisions, respectively. In the "kulu" (conch, Triton's Trumpet, and turbo shells) blowing competition, Siena Lazaro placed first, followed by Quiana Manglona and Ethan Palacios, respectively. All the young winners are from Tinian. Awards for the best decorated booth went to Fresku (first place), I'guma Taga (second place), and Tropics (third place).

The closing ceremony was at the House of Taga at 6pm on Oct. 6, 2019, a day early due to inclement weather. (MVA)

Lions bring diabetes awareness message to MHS students



Students and faculty pose with the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club and Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club after the Diabetes Awareness presentation held last Nov. 15, Friday, at Marianas High School in Susupe. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With as much as 18% of adults in the CNMI having diabetes, the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club and Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club are teaming up to help spread awareness about this disease.

In line with this and as part of the celebration of November as Diabetes Awareness Month, the two groups collaborated with the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau and the Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor on a diabetes awareness presentation at the Marianas

High School in Susupe last Nov. 15, which was attended by almost 400 students.

"Diabetes is the top global cause advocated by the Lions Clubs International," said Saipan Fil-Am president Eden Mercado, adding that it is the major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and lower limb amputation, with million deaths directly caused by diabetes.

"As we keep saying, prevention is better than cure," Mercado said. "We should start inculcating this while they are still young. Proper orientation and being consistent with the diabetes campaign can help

a lot of people to be cautious about their sugar intake."

Diabetes Prevention and Control Program assistant Beda Mundo and program navigator Vincent Wesley Aldan were the presenters, with MHS students, teachers, teacher aides, counselors, and Lions club members participating in the event.

Mercado said the club is grateful to MHS principal Eric Evangelista and vice principal Christine Tudela and Melanie Rdiall for allowing them to do the presentation.

For more information, visit lionsclub.org, or call Eden Mercado at 788-2416 or Mario Mayuga at 285-1021.

Students invited to explore career opportunities

The Education and Workforce Development Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce presents the "2019 Student Career Exploration Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019.

High school juniors and seniors have been invited to register for this event. The Chamber is also seeking interested companies who would like to participate in this program.

Registered students will choose a field of business they are hoping to learn more about and will be paired with a participating Chamber business. This is a unique opportunity

that will give students a hands-on experience in the workplace with a chance to "shadow" a private-sector business leader for a half day. The Chamber hopes that this experience will help students decide which field of work or study they would like to pursue in the future. Students will be recognized at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall during the Saipan Chamber's general membership meeting on Dec. 4, from 11:30am to 12:45pm. The meeting will be followed by a student workshop hosted by the EdWork committee focusing on financial literacy, in-

terviewing skills, and life balancing tips from experienced professionals.

Interested students will need the following: student application, high school permission form, and student/parental consent form. Hard copies can be picked up from the Chamber office on the 3rd floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 or downloaded from the Chamber website: www.saipanchamber.com. Forms may be submitted via email or to Chamber office. For more information, call (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. (PR)



Participants of last year's Student Career Exploration Day of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce display their certificates of participation. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Saipan Fishermen's Association Youth Fishing Club pose with master navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientist Mia Iwane last Nov. 16 at the Public School System central office on Capital Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young fishermen learn about traditional navigation, sharks

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Youth Fishing Club of the Saipan Fishermen's Association were in for a treat last Nov. 16 at the Public School System central office on Capital Hill, where they learned the basics of traditional navigation from a master navigator and gained knowledge about the ocean's apex predator, sharks.

Master navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy taught the young fisherman the basics of relying on their own knowledge to navigate the vast ocean, while National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration social scientist Mia Iwane taught them about sharks.

"If you learn navigation, it would never fail," Raiukiulipiy said. "With GPS [global positioning system], the battery can die someday, the satellite can make it crazy, but if you know your environment and you respect it and understand it, your environment will help you and guide you to get back."

More than just basic way-finding, Raiukiulipiy also stressed navigation as a cultural identity.

"It is our identity. It is our culture, and [the youth] have to be proud of who they are as an islander," Raiuki-

ulipiy said.

Among the students was Marianas High School's Edward Omar. "We are here to inspire the youth to come and learn how to fish because people in this generation do not know how to fish," Omar said.

The students also learned about the behavior of sharks and other marine species from Iwane, who flew in from Hawaii to work with the community on shark interactions and changing behavior in the Marianas.

"I am here to share with the students that there are different parts of marine science and fisheries science that they can get into. Not a lot of people think about the human side of fisheries, which is really important for management and for the good of the community," Iwane said.

Set to run for eight months, the SFA Youth Fishing program supports SFA's vision to give the youth an understanding of ocean preservation and the fishery industry in the CNMI. The program was recently approved for elective credits under the CNMI Public School System.

To learn more about SFA's Youth Fishing Program, contact SFA president Gene Weaver at 236-9700 or email gweaver64@gmail.com.



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Island Snapshots



SESSION BREAK
House of Representatives lawmakers speak with Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero in a recent session on Capital Hill.

ERWIN ENCINARES



FIRE ACT
Tammy Firefly's fiery act lights up the Saipan crowd at the Super American Circus's three-day, back-to-back performances last Nov. 15 to 17 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe.

IVA MAURIN

ART CONTEST

The 2019 Pacifica Art Contest judges—Stellar Marianas national director Crispin Deleon Guerrero, left; 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Concepcion Cabrera, third from left, and Monique Boyer Sablan, Youth Affairs Office special assistant, right, join Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. president Shirley Sablan for a souvenir picture.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Samantha Sikayun, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. marketing coordinator, right, presents Selina Salim, Category 1 Winner, with her \$300 prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School's 16-year-old Irish Viray, eighth from right, wins first place in the 12-17 age division of the 2019 Pacifica Art Contest. Here, Viray poses with, among others, her classmates, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. president Shirley Sablan and marketing coordinator Samantha Sikayun.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Selina Salim poses with her with teachers and classmates of Brilliant Star and the team from Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. after being named the winner in the 2019 Pacifica Art Contest in the 6-11 age division (1st to 6th grade).



NEW CITIZENS

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, seated center; former press secretary Peter A. Callaghan, to Manglona's right; and Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty, seated at extreme right, join 17 new U.S. citizens for a souvenir picture after a recent naturalization ceremony in federal court.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, left, former press secretary Peter A. Callaghan, second from right, and Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty, extreme right, pose with Dr. Alberto Banarez Ventura, after a recent naturalization ceremony in federal court.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Where does waste go on a small island?

Behind a family home not far from downtown Apia, a small mountain of computer cases teeters in the tropical sun at over 3 meters high. Nearby, stacks of thousands of circuit boards create rolling green foothills. Steel drums, plastic buckets and fraying cardboard boxes dot this electronic landscape—overflowing reservoirs of connectors, transistors and wires.

A practiced and callused hand is nearby, forcibly and systematically ripping apart an old computer body with a pair of pliers and a screwdriver, scattering electronic paraphernalia in all directions.

“He’s dismantled thousands of computers in the last couple years,” says Marina Keil, the president of the Samoa Recycling and Waste Management Association, gesturing at the piles surrounding us. “He could do more, but he’d need power tools. Ever since we started importing electronics into Samoa, we’ve never had any leave. But only 5 to 10% of e-waste comes to recyclers like this. The rest goes into landfill. Unfortunately, e-waste takes a lot of time and requires a lot of manual labor to process.”

Across town, Keil leads us into the office of one of Samoa’s three waste tire collec-

tors. Out back the collector has his own waste mountain. Some 10,000 tires are piled high. He has collected these for the last 10 years but has had to recently stop stockpiling these waste tires—he has run out of space.

A few kilometers away, the manager of an auto repair shop is facing a similar problem, but with oil. Behind the repair bays there are dozens of barrels of old oil sitting under a corrugated aluminum roof. He has stockpiled it because there is nowhere for it to go.

“Waste oil has been accumulating for forever,” Keil says. “Across Samoa, there is some 400,000 liters of stockpiled engine oil sitting around. Currently everyone is stockpiling. Some illegally dump it. It’s just sitting here with nowhere to go.”

Samoa is facing a problem that plagues small islands states—where does all the waste go?

“Here in Samoa and other islands as well there’s no recycling that goes on. Pretty much we collect and process it for export to countries overseas,” Keil says. “But it’s hard for us to export because of the operational and the freight cost.”

It is precisely this obstacle that a new partnership called



Moana Taka is designed to tackle. The partnership between the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and China Navigation Company, part of the Swire Group, provides a way to offload recyclable waste from Samoa and other Pacific countries to recycling facilities abroad. The UN Environment Programme helped facilitate the agreement.

“It’s an exciting public-private partnership,” says Sefa-

naia Nawadra, the Head of UNEP’s Pacific Office. “Pacific island countries that cannot store or treat waste properly and are unable to afford to ship recyclable waste can use Swire vessels to transport it to ports where these facilities exist—for free. It’s a great example of cooperation between governments, civil society and the private sector.”

Waste such as plastics, aluminum cans, oil and ozone depleting substances are all

eligible for transport under the partnership.

There are 21 countries and territories participating: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis

and Futuna.

So far, Pacific island nations have been able to send over 100 tons of waste to be recycled through the Moana Taka partnership.

Certain obstacles remain.

“We’re lucky to be part of the Moana Taka initiative,” says Keil. “Freight is one of the problems, but collection of things like waste oil is also an issue. Another one is identifying companies and facilities offshore that can take these wastes for safe recycling and disposal. We’ve been lucky to have the help of UNEP in that.”

UNEP has also provided 100 waste oil collection sites and is working to support collection of other types of waste. UNEP is using its networks especially in Asia to identify waste recycling companies and facilities to work with the Moana Taka Partnership.

But attitudes and behaviors still need to change, says Keil. “99.5% of plastic bottles go to landfill. Many Samoans grew up burning rubbish. In the long run, we need sustainable solutions.

“It’s important that we teach our young ones the 3 Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle—and when they grow up they’ll make better green choices.” (www.unenvironment.org)



Become a federal contractor or vendor

Now is a great time to start the process of becoming a federal contractor or vendor and the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center will teach you how to do that, for free.

PTAC is offering a series of free workshops from 9am to 10am this November at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Admin Building, Margarita Perez & Jaime Tuquero IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131 (unless otherwise specified):

■ **Nov. 21**—FedBizOpps and NECO: Where to Find Government Solicitations : Federal government opportunities greater than \$25,000 are posted on FedBizOpps. FedBizOpps has moved to beta.sam.gov. PTAC will explain all the new features. The U.S.

Navy posts opportunities on NECO. PTAC will provide an overview of these two sites and show you how to set up automated searches.

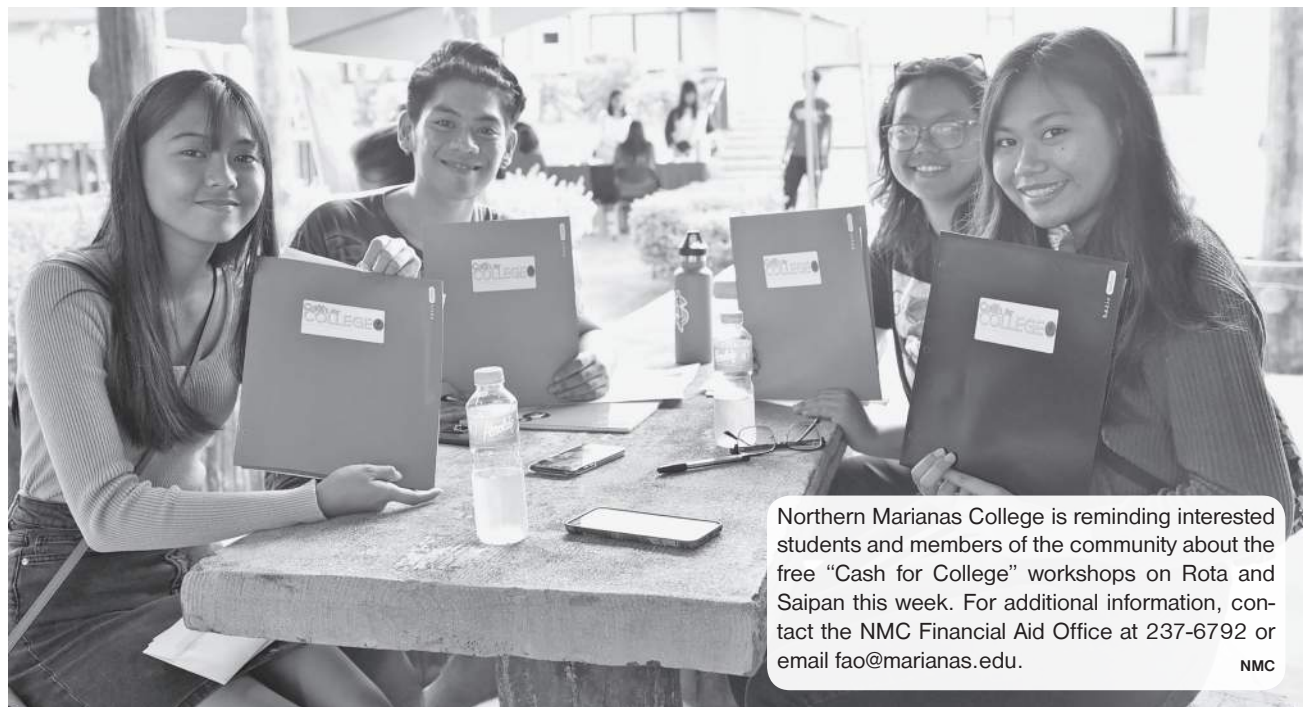
■ **Nov. 27**—Developing a Capabilities Statement: A Capabilities Statement is an essential marketing tool for government contracting. PTAC will explain how to create a CS and what information should be included to improve your chances of winning a government contract.

For project management professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals.

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/admin@guamptac.com.

Walk-ins are welcome. (PR)

NMC Cash for College workshops this week



Northern Marianas College is reminding interested students and members of the community about the free “Cash for College” workshops on Rota and Saipan this week. For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email fao@marianas.edu. **NMC**

Northern Marianas College is reminding interested students and members of the community about the upcoming Cash for College workshops that will happen this week on Rota and Saipan.

The Cash for College workshop on Rota will be held on Friday, Nov. 22, 2019, from 9am to 12pm at the NMC Rota Campus in building A-1.

The workshop on Saipan will be held this Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, at the NMC As Terlaje campus between buildings N and O from 9am to 12pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, municipal scholarships (like

the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance), and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college’s Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming spring 2020 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to \$75.

Parents or guardians interested in attending the Cash for College workshop on Saipan can also bring their children to the Children’s Center at NMC’s Building J in room J16. This free service provided by NMC’s School of Education will be ongoing throughout the event.

Parents that utilize the Children’s Center must sign a liability form.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), their high school diploma, a copy of 2017 and 2018 1040, copy of 2017 and 2018 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email fao@marianas.edu. (NMC)

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Border agents shouldn't be allowed to trawl through the contents of your phone

International travelers grudgingly accept that their cell-phones or laptops might be handled and given a cursory inspection at an airport or border crossing. But some travelers, including U.S. citizens, have had the contents of their electronic devices—including family photographs and personal information—scrutinized by border agents.

A federal judge in Boston rightly held this week that such searches may be carried out only if the authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the devices contain contraband such as classified national security information or child pornography.

U.S. District Judge Denise J. Casper ruled in a case brought by 11 plaintiffs—10 U.S. citizens and one lawful permanent resident—whose devices had been searched when they entered the country. Among them was a Muslim woman who twice had her iPhones searched despite her objection to having Customs and Border Protection officers view photographs of her and her daughters without their headscarves.

Traditionally the courts have treated searches at the border as an exception to the Fourth Amendment's ban on "unreasonable searches and seizures" because of the nation's interest in intercepting contraband. But Casper noted that the exception was meant to cover "routine" searches, not the intrusive inspection of electronic devices that are notable for the vast quantity of personal information they contain.

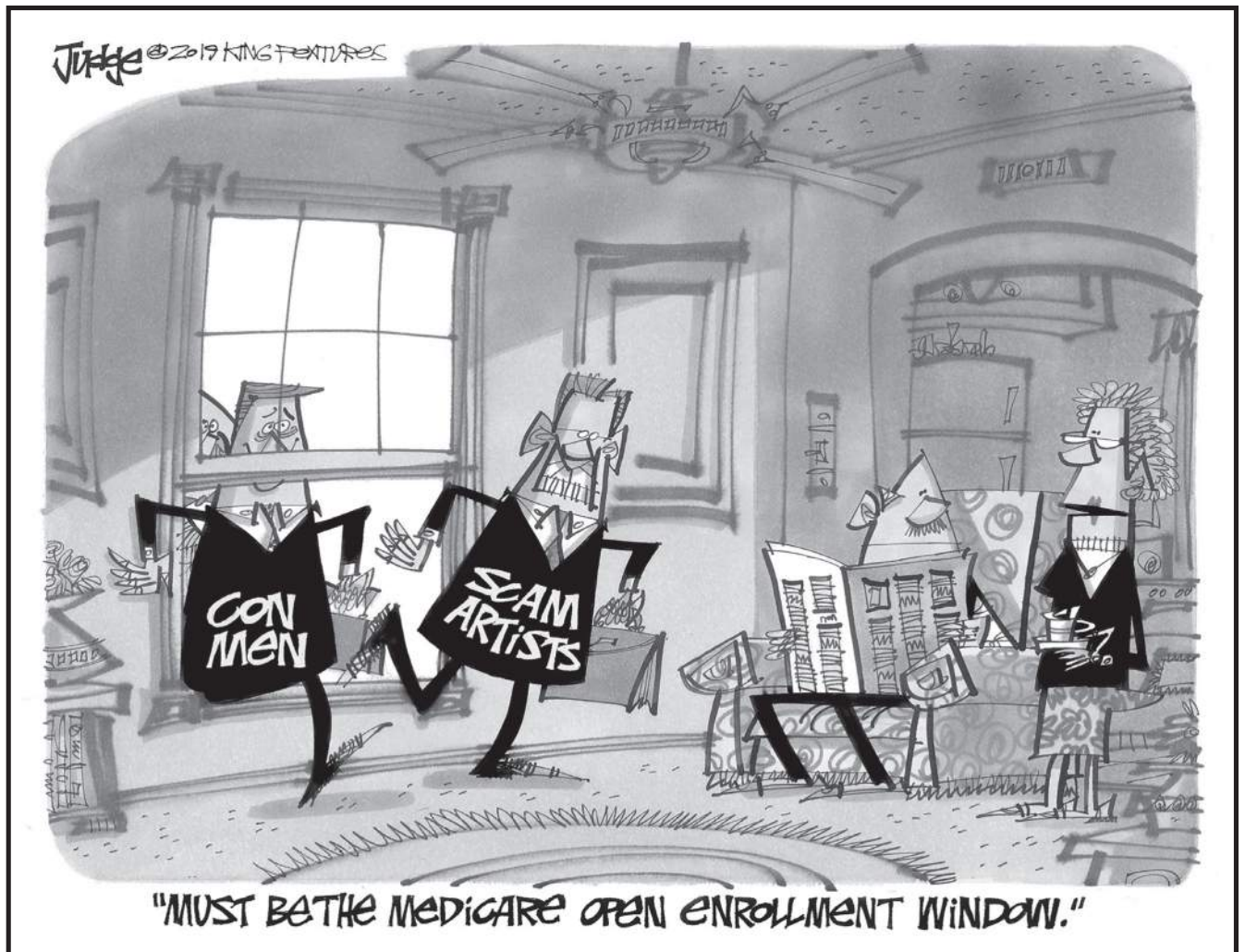
Casper isn't the first judge to rule that border searches of electronic devices require reasonable suspicion. In 2013, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals established that standard even as it upheld the forensic analysis of the laptop of a man returning from Mexico that turned up images of child pornography. (The court said that the fact that the man's name was on a watch list of sex offenders had created reasonable suspicion.)

But it's significant that this week's ruling follows—and refers to—a 2014 Supreme Court decision that broke new ground in recognizing that searches of devices such as smartphones and laptops pose a special threat to privacy. As Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote in that ruling: "Modern cellphones, as a category, implicate privacy concerns far beyond those implicated by the search of a cigarette pack, a wallet, or a purse."

The 2014 ruling involved the search of a cellphone belonging to a person under arrest, and the court held that before trawling through its contents police had to obtain a search warrant by showing they had probable cause to believe that a crime had been committed.

Because of the special circumstances of border searches,

See **BORDER** on Next Page



Listening to HK protesters

HONG KONG—Visit Hong Kong these days and you view a Greek tragedy in the making. This tragedy, encouraged by Beijing, will further poison relations between China and the United States.

Once-peaceful, massive pro-democracy demonstrations in June have deteriorated into violence due to the blindness of Hong Kong's leader, Carrie Lam, and her obeisance to hard-liners in Beijing.

Furious students have now barricaded themselves on several campuses in protest at indiscriminate police brutality toward protesters, as police try to enter. Fearful Hong Kongers recall the imagery of the Tiananmen Square massacre of students in Beijing in 1989.

The situation could still be defused if Lam were willing to discuss protesters' reasonable demands, but she refuses. Instead, she and Chinese leader Xi Jinping have been defaming all protesters as violent criminals. That is simply untrue.

The protests of the last six months have been driven by Hong Kongers' desperate attempt to preserve what Beijing promised when Britain handed the territory back to China in 1987: democratic freedoms, including independent courts and the rule of law.

"What sparked this conflict was a threat to rule of law," says Selma Masood, a barrister who is co-founder of the Hong Kong Legal Observers group, volunteer lawyers who are trying to report on legal violations on both sides of the current Hong Kong conflict.

Her point: Lam proposed legislation in February that would have allowed Hong Kongers to be extradited to China to face trial there in courts controlled by the Communist Party. But under the "one country, two systems" formula that China agreed to with Britain, Hong Kong is supposed to keep an independent judiciary until 2047.

Lam ignored massive peaceful protests against the extradition bill that brought millions onto the streets. She only froze the bill after students eventually invaded the offices of the Hong Kong Legislative Council, and didn't kill it until September.

Meantime, the police stopped giving permits for peaceful demonstrations, which encouraged young people toward more radical methods. "She taught the students that nonviolence won't work," says Martin Lee, one of Hong Kong's most prominent democracy activists for the last three decades.

By the time Lam killed the bill, demonstrators had upped their demands to include the right to universal suffrage in choosing Hong Kong's leader, a right that Beijing had promised but never delivered. They also demanded an independent investigation

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



into increasingly brutal police tactics.

"We are here to uphold the law on both sides, but there has been escalating police violence," says barrister Masood. She is principal of her own private firm, SM & Co. but works many nights with fellow legal volunteers trying to locate arrested students and ensure that they get access to counsel.

"I've seen bruises, broken bones, cuts on faces," she says. "There are allegations of gang rapes in police stations." The number of suicides in Hong Kong has risen sharply, with dead bodies found at sea, leading to suspicions they may include victims of the police.

No one trusts the Hong Kong police to investigate themselves. Many students believe that the most violent masked activists are actually police provocateurs, including those doing serious damage to university buildings. They believe the government's goal is to diminish support for the protesters' demands.

Yet the demand for an independent investigation into violence on both sides has gathered support across the Hong Kong territory. Polls show support for this demand at nearly 80% of the population, according to Lee.

Over the last week, a suspicious death of a college student triggered a new wave of protests on campuses, with students building barricades and police firing massive volleys of extra-potent tear gas onto campuses. Many students have left, and many more were fleeing late Friday.

What has struck me, however, is the still widespread support for student-led protesters and their legal demands.

At a demonstration Friday in the business heart of downtown Hong Kong, the crowd on the streets included men in suits, young women in high heels, two elderly men in wheelchairs and many professionals, some wearing surgical masks to protect against tear gas.

Black masked, so-called front liners put bricks on the road to block police cars, and organized pathways through which dem-

See **LISTENING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Blended families: A recipe for probate battles

A blended family is one where a spouse (or both) have at least one child from a previous marriage or relationship. This dynamic has become commonplace. In fact, one in six children nationwide live in a household with a step-parent, step-sibling, or half-sibling. And about 65 percent of remarriages create a blended family.

The most-famous blended family is a television one—the Brady Bunch. When Mike and Carol Brady married, each brought three children into the marriage. Mike had three boys and Carol three girls.

Fortunately, Mike and Carol managed to raise the kids as one big, happy family. But let's fast-forward a few decades: What would have happened if Mike died before Carol?

If Mike died intestate (meaning that he died without a will), then his property would go to Carol consistent with their locale's intestacy laws. In other words, Carol would get most, if not all, of Mike's stuff.

Now let's say that Carol dies a few years later without creating a will or getting married again. All of her stuff goes to her daughters. Mike's sons, on the other hand, get nothing.

And if Carol married, and then died intestate, the result would be even worse. Carol's new husband would get the lion's share of Mike's property. And, again, Mike's sons would get nothing.

Now let's play the scenario out again, assuming that Mike, Carol, and the kids were not one, big happy family. When Mike dies, Carol can stop Mike's sons from visiting the family home. She can block them from receiving any sentimental mementos. And, of course, she can funnel all of Mike's wealth away from his biological sons and to her daughters, even though Mike was not their biological father.

As we can see, blended families pose troubling issues, whether or not the blended family likes each other. Fortunately, by being proactive, these troubles can be banished before storm clouds

have a chance to gather.

Step one: Act now. Don't wait until you get sick or hurt. Make a plan years before you think you will need it.

Step two: Tell your family the plan, preferably in person and again in writing. Disclosure early can cure many ills later.

Step three: Regularly update your plan to keep up with current events. For example, if one of your kids takes care of you while others don't, you may want that kid to receive more since they did more.

Step four: Notify your family about the updates, preferably in person and again in writing.

Now that we've covered the steps we should take, let's circle back to the planning stage with four tips to protect both your assets and your family.

First, a simple will is normally too simple to address the complexities of a blended family. Don't create a will that simply says your assets will pass to your spouse—unless you want your spouse to have the power to cut off your biological kids after you are gone.

Second, think hard about creating a trust rather than a will. The advantage here is that a trust is a vastly more flexible tool than a will for passing your wealth. For example, unlike a will, a properly drafted trust can protect your kids' access to your assets if your spouse gets remarried. Similarly, unlike a will, a trust can be written to leave assets for your spouse during their lifetime and then, after they pass, transferring what is left over to your kids.

Third, if you create a trust, pick a trustworthy and sophisticated trustee. This person's job will include investing the trust's assets and then distributing them to the trust's beneficiaries. These roles, in turn, create a natural conflict between your spouse and kids. That's because your spouse benefits from the trustee distributing money during the spouse's lifetime while the kids bene-

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

fit from the trust growing rather than spending the trust assets. As a result, the trustee needs to know not only how to manage the trust funds, they also need to understand how to swim through potentially tense family drama.

Fourth, consider putting some of your assets into accounts that will automatically transfer to your kids when you die, so that they are taken care of regardless of what your spouse does. For instance, you can go to your bank, fill out a form designating your beneficiary and, voila, the designated beneficiary will receive that account when you pass. These accounts (which are known as pay-on-death accounts, informal trusts, or Totten trusts) have several advantages: They're free, easy to create, and simple to use for your designated beneficiary.

But if you set up one of these accounts, remember to regularly review it. It would be a bummer if you originally selected one of your kids, had a falling out with them, but accidentally left them as the designated beneficiary. In that case, it doesn't matter that you did not want them to receive anything. They would still get the account because you didn't update the beneficiary.

In sum, while blended families have become common, they are by no means easy. Indeed, they provide fertile ground for family drama. But with some thoughtful planning, this rich soil need not blossom into conflict. To avoid your death becoming the spark that sets your family ablaze, speak with an experienced estate-planning attorney.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

BORDER

From Page 10

Casper's ruling requires only reasonable suspicion, a lesser standard that CBP and Immigration and Customs Enforcement say they already employ in conducting so-called advanced searches of electronic devices, those that involve connecting external equipment to a device. Casper's ruling rightly requires reasonable suspicion before a border agent can conduct even a "basic" search of a device's contents.

This ruling recognizes that trawling through a traveler's phone or laptop for no reason is a 21st century violation of the Fourth Amendment. When a suitable case presents itself, the Supreme Court should make the same call.

(c) 2019 Los Angeles Times

LISTENING

From Page 10

onstrators could flee. Someone spray-painted graffiti, obviously aimed at the police, that read: "It was you who taught me peaceful protests don't work."

One middle-aged fund manager told me: "I am here because of police brutality. There are a lot of dead bodies in the harbor. We don't want to see more children die."

When I asked if he wanted independence for Hong Kong—a charge Beijing makes against demonstrators—he reacted sharply. "No. Never. Hong Kong is part of China, but China is trying to make us fight against each other." Then he raised his arm and joined the crowd in chanting "Stand with Hong Kong!"

Lam, and Xi, won't pacify Hong Kong by killing more children. They might save Hong Kong—and spare Beijing a lot more trouble—by listening to those children's demands.

Knowing what it means to serve

Those of us who have never been in the military don't understand what it is like to serve in the military.

My father never wanted to talk about the war. A waist-gunner and radioman on a B-24, he was unlike some other veterans from the neighborhood who traded stories about the places they'd been and adventures they'd had.

But the only detail I knew about my dad's experience in World War II was that he liked when they served chicken-fried steak.

I was probably 13 when he told that story, and with the unblinking sanctimony that only a teenager can wield, I remember saying, "Wasn't that really unhealthy?" In a look that I can only describe as for-a-smart-kid-you're-remarkably-stupid, my father replied, "We were in planes carrying bombs, and enemy planes were shooting at us. Fried food was not a problem."

I didn't understand what I was saying back then. This week, with Veteran's Day and my father in mind, I asked those who have served to tell me what civilians don't understand and can't comprehend. These are some of their responses.

"A lot of people don't understand how many of us joined out of a sense of service," said Paul H. Miller Jr., "And because we wanted to be part of something bigger. And they don't how many deadly _ or almost deadly _ accidents happen, even during peacetime."

"The level of loyalty and trust you have for your comrades doesn't have a direct comparison," said Natasha Wold, who currently serves in the Army. "The bonds are similar to marriage but formed differently, because they are formed by shared hardships, dark humor, physical pains, fears and accomplishments. I can recognize those who serve and have served sometimes with just quick eye contact. It gets to a point where you just 'know' ... without words and without knowing someone personally. You just know and connect."

Natasha's point about the ineffable "knowing" who served is the idea most deeply echoed by other veterans.

"There's an instant connection and recognition between two strangers when they realize they both served: a sort of sign and countersign," said my former UConn student Sherry, who did not want her last name used. She served and was in active duty in the Air Force. "Whether it's at an airport bar, Home Depot checkout line or a traffic stop, it's a quick run down in 30 sec-

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant



Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

onds. What branch, what rank, where were you stationed, deployed to, and which years? If it's an older veteran, we both realized that while war locations have changed, the military structure and the close friendships we cherish are similar, and that makes us feel bonded."

Navy veteran Debby Morris affirms the "bond among those who served together that is unbreakable ... even if you didn't especially like one another. I was in the Navy, which means we had a specific language that's different from each of the other services. We know when someone is pretending to be a veteran, too."

After explaining more about her service, Debby ending with a line that made me catch my breath: "None of us really knows what to do with the phrase, 'Thank you for your service,' but we smile, nod and say 'You're welcome.'"

Other veterans immediately agreed with Debby. The random thanks from strangers, however well-meant, did not make them feel particularly valued.






I felt the way I had when I'd made my chicken-fried-steak comment to my dad: I was struck by my own ignorance, however innocent, because I'd made a habit of saying this to people in uniform. What about the line was awkward or unnerving? Is this, I asked, as bankrupt a gesture as the generic "The people of such-and-such a tragedy have my thoughts and prayers," which is, in effect, primarily self-congratulatory ("What a generous and considerate person I am!")?

Debby's answer was this: "'Thank you for your service' is a platitude, and underneath, I think for some, there's an air of 'Thanks for making sure I didn't have to serve.' Not sure."

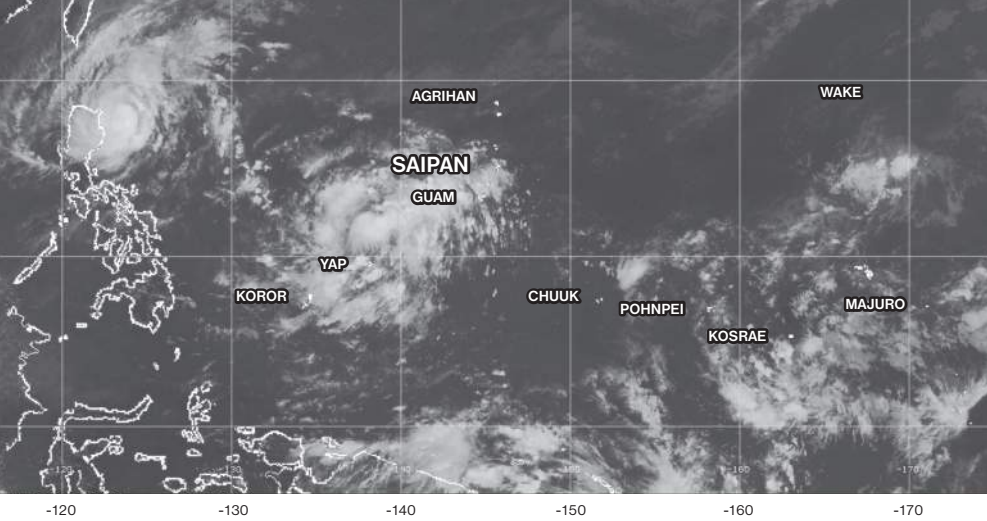
It's a brave answer from a brave veteran. We are in their debt. of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	77°	87°	77°	88°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:01 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Morning satellite and radar imagery shows scattered showers over the local area. Lightning data indicated a few thunderstorms east of the islands. Satellite imagery also indicates that the bulk of the shower activity is to the east of the Marianas. Model data hints that while there maybe scattered showers over the islands this morning, activity will decrease to isolated by the afternoon. There will be enough low-level convergence to generate isolated thunderstorms through the day. Drier air will filter into the local area tonight and 700 mb relative humidity will fall to well below fifty percent by Tuesday. With low deep level moisture, expect only partly cloudy skies and isolated showers tonight through Wednesday night. A surface trough will bring mostly cloudy skies, isolated showers and thunderstorms Thursday and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	46° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	77° / 66°	
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 74°	
London	Mostly	45° / 41°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	76° / 67°	
New York	Showers	53° / 41°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°	
Paris	Showers	45° / 34°	
Busan	Sunny	52° / 37°	
Rome	Rain	61° / 48°	
Salem	Sunny	64° / 44°	
San Francisco	Windy	58° / 49°	
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 27°	
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	57° / 45°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:16 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.25	
1:59 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.75	
7:54 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13	
11:47 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.40	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:21 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:04 AM	11:51 PM
Wednesday	-	12:54 AM	-
Thursday	12:50 AM	1:41 PM	-
Friday	1:48 AM	2:26 PM	-
Saturday	2:45 AM	3:10 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily	
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4		UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1		OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6		3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
					UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily		1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily		1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily	
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily		1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
					1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
					1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily		1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily						
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily		TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
					FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
ROTA TO GUAM					2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily		2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	
					2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	
GUAM TO ROTA					2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily	
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily		2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	
					2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily		2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily		2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	

Business

Casa Décor wants you to live with what you love



BEA CABRERA

Various Christmas decor are on display and available at Casa Decor located on Middle Road beside LJ's Supermarket.

By **BEA CABRERA**

beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Home decorations whether interior or exterior—a necessity or for frills? What you put in your home defines a unique environment and creates a comfort that you can truly call your own.

Casa Décor located on Middle Road (beside LJ's Supermarket) is your go-to-place to find quality products and items that can help you build your dream living space.

"I love interior decorating and this passion help pushed me to open Casa Décor... I have been on island for more than 30 years and from experience, if I want to buy things to help improve my living standards, it was always a challenge," owner Gavin Lam said.

"My passion and the need for the island for this kind of shop is what pushed me to go into this kind of business," Lam added.

Casa Décor is barely a month old but its inventory is very well stocked and offers a wide variety of items from China.

"We have all kinds of furniture that includes sofa, dining tables, cabinets, appliances such as rechargeable full-sized electric fans, electrical, and lighting fixtures. We do have construction materials like the tiles that are meant for finishing only and we have full sets of them. We also have bathroom fixtures and toilets for children," Lam said.

"We have a wide array of paintings and scented candles that can fill your home or office...we have various Christmas decorations



BEA CABRERA

Office furniture for small or big offices are on display and available at Casa Decor located on Middle Road beside LJ's Supermarket.



BEA CABRERA

Unique paintings and classy living room sofa sets and tables are on display and available at Casa Decor located on Middle Road beside LJ's Supermarket.



BEA CABRERA

Scented accents and decorative pots to help highlight your living space are on display and available at Casa Decor located on Middle Road beside LJ's Supermarket.

currently on our shelves. If you love gardening, we have decorative and clay pots that are reasonable priced from \$26 to \$39.99 and they

come in three sets," Lam added

According to Lam, his prices are competitive and affordable. "If people are looking for quality products at affordable prices, Casa Décor is here for them... if one likes the an item in the store, he or she does not have to wait for shipment as we keep a stock of items in the warehouse," he said.

"We offer delivery and we may charge a bit for that depending on the item and location...we accept major credit cards except American Express," he added.

Lam understands that improving or decorating a home is not easy or inexpensive that is why Casa Décor offers a layaway program.

"It is payment in installment basis with no interest where customers will pay only 30% down payment on the item and the balance payment is every two weeks until full payment is done and then they can take home the merchandise," he said.

"We partnered with Express Financing where they can do the layaway program with us in behalf of the customer. We can assist them and the program can go as long as three years," he added.

Casa Décor also has a membership program to loyal customers.

"Whenever a customer buys any item, one point is earned for every dollar spent. If a customer accumulates 500 points they can come to the store and redeem it with something of equal value," Lam said.

"Customers who spend \$2,500 are automatically Gold members and they can avail 5% discount on sale and regular items... If \$5,000 then they become Platinum members where they are entitled to 10% for any item whether on sale or not," Lam added.

Casa Décor is gearing up for Thanksgiving and will run a promo offering 10% discount from Nov. 25 to 30.

"Our goal is to attract more people to come here so they can see what we have. We have more items arriving on the 21st or 22nd and we hope the community will look forward to that," Lam said.

Casa Décor is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm and 9am to 1pm on Sundays. For more information, call (670) 898-2299 or (670) 235-8899.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued the following product recalls:

BEAD LANDING™ TASSEL KEYCHAIN MOBILE POWER BANKS

Hazard: The lithium ion battery in the keychain's mobile power bank can overheat, posing fire and burn hazards. The firm has received two reports of tassel keychain mobile power banks overheating when charging and catching on fire. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves Michaels private brand Bead Landing tassel keychain mobile power banks which can be used to charge smart phones and other devices. The tassel keychain mobile power banks measure about 7 inches long by 1.5 inches wide with USB and micro USB charging cables, as well as a lightning adapter for the micro USB cable. Only tassel keychain mobile power banks sold in black, cream, blush pink and iridescent blue colors and the following SKU numbers and UPC codes are included in this recall:

Color SKU Number UPC codes

Black 545929 191518582543

Cream 545930 191518582550

Blush Pink 545931 191518582567

Iridescent Blue 545932 191518582574

Remedy: Refund. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled Bead Landing tassel keychains with mobile power banks and return them to any Michaels store for a full refund. Contact Michaels at 800- 642-4235 from 9am to 7pm CT Monday through Friday or online at www.michaels.com and click on "Product Recalls" at the bottom of the page for more information.

COASTLINE CERAMIC MUGS

Hazard: The mugs can crack or break when

Recent product recalls

used with or exposed to hot liquids, posing burn and laceration hazards. Hit Promotional Products has received ten reports of the mugs cracking or breaking when in use with hot liquids. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves the Coastline Ceramic Mug that was given away as a free promotional item at meetings or events. The mugs are decorated with various logos and come in a variety of colors with a gray bottom. "China" is printed on the bottom of each mug.

KICHLER SNAPPER REAR ENGINE 33" RIDING MOWERS

Remedy: Replace. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled mugs and contact Hit Promotional Products for a free replacement mug. Contact Hit Promotional Products at 800-237-6305, Extension 2691, from 8:30am to 5:30pm ET Monday through Friday, email at lthibado@hitpromo.net or visit www.hitpromo.net and click on product recalls under the Support menu near the bottom of the page.

Hazard: A faulty blade engagement lever can keep the lawnmower blade engaged after the release of the foot activated disengagement pedal, posing an injury hazard. No incidents or injuries reported.

Description: This recall involves Snapper Rear Engine Riding Mowers with rear engines and a 33-inch mower deck. The riding mowers are red and black. Model number 2691526, Briggs & Stratton and 33" are printed on a white label the back of the mower. SNAPPER is printed on the front of the mower.

Remedy: Repair. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled riding mowers and contact Briggs & Stratton for a free inspection and repair. Contact Briggs & Stratton at 800-227-3798 from 8am to 5pm CT Monday through Friday or www.briggsandstratton.com and click on "Recalls" under the Support tab for more information.

KENMORE ELITE MICROWAVE OVENS

Hazard: Incorrect wiring causes the microwave's exterior to reach temperatures exceeding 183 degrees Fahrenheit, posing a burn hazard to the user. No incidents or injuries reported.

Description: This recall involves 1,000-watt countertop convection microwave ovens manufactured under the Kenmore Elite brand name on April 27, 2017. This manufacturing date of the recalled microwave ovens is identifiable by the first six digits of their serial numbers, each of which begins with the numerals "170427". The model number of the recalled microwaves is "204.77603610". The brand name, model number and serial number can be found on the data plate on the back of the microwave ovens. The brand name is printed near the bottom of the door.

Model Number Serial Number Range:

204.77603610 17042700001 and 17042700684

Remedy: Repair. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled microwave ovens and contact Sears for a free in-home repair. Contact Sears at 800-659-7026 from 7am to 7pm CT Monday through Friday, or online at www.sears.com and click on "Product Recalls"

for more information.

HOOEY CHILDREN'S SWEATSHIRTS WITH DRAWSTRINGS

Hazard: A drawstring in the sweatshirt hood poses a strangulation hazard to children. Drawstrings can become entangled or caught on playground slides, hand rails, school bus doors or other moving objects, posing a significant strangulation hazard to children. No incidents or injuries reported.

Description: This recall involves 15 styles of youth-sized sweatshirts with the "Hooley" brand or logo and drawstrings in the hood. The sweatshirts are polyester and cotton. The sweatshirts generally have a single front pocket. They were sold in boys' and girls' sizes XS, S, M, L, XL. A white size label has the word "Hooley" and "Made in China" and is located at the center back neck of the sweatshirts. A label in the side seam has the garment care instructions.

Remedy: Repair. Consumers should immediately take the recalled sweatshirts away from children and remove the drawstring to eliminate the hazard. Contact Hooley toll-free at 833-847-0829 from 8am to 5pm CT Monday to Friday, email at info@getyourhooley.com, or online at www.getyourhooley.com and click on Product Safety for more information.

Please contact the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Consumer Counsel at 670-237-7500 should you have any questions or concerns. You may also contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Information Hotline at 800-638-2772 from 8am to 5pm EST to get product safety and other agency information and to report unsafe products. (PR)

Nation

Democrats invite Trump to testify in impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi invited President Donald Trump to testify in front of investigators in the House impeachment inquiry ahead of a week that will see several key witnesses appear publicly.

Pushing back against accusations from the president that the process has been stacked against him, Pelosi said Trump is welcome to appear or answer questions in writing, if he chooses.

"If he has information that is exculpatory, that means ex, taking away, culpable, blame, then we look forward to seeing it," she said in an interview that aired Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation." Trump "could come right before the committee and talk, speak all the truth that he wants if he wants," she said.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer echoed that suggestion.

"If Donald Trump doesn't agree with what he's hearing, doesn't like what he's hearing, he shouldn't tweet. He should come to the committee and testify under oath. And he



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., talks to reporters on the morning after the first public hearing in the impeachment probe of President Donald Trump on his effort to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019.

the investigation into whether Trump held up U.S. military aid to Ukraine to try to pressure the county's president to announce an investigation into Democrats, including former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading 2020 candidate, and his son, Hunter.

Multiple witnesses overheard a phone call in which Trump and Sondland reportedly discussed efforts to push for the investigations. In private testimony to impeachment investigators made public Saturday, Tim Morrison, a former National Security Council aide and longtime Republican defense hawk, said Sondland told him he was discussing Ukraine matters directly with Trump.

Morrison said Sondland and Trump had spoken approximately five times between July 15 and Sept. 11 — the weeks that \$391 million in U.S. assistance was withheld from Ukraine before it was released.

Thousands at vigil for victims of California school shooting

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of people gathered Sunday at a city park to hold a candlelight vigil to remember two students shot and killed by a classmate at his Southern California high school as investigators try to determine what prompted the deadly attack that left three other teens wounded.

The brother of one of the two students killed told people at the vigil in Central Park that his sister 15-year-old Gracie Anne Muehlberger "was the best sister ever. You always put a smile on my face."

Riley Muehlberger shared fond memories of his sister's birthday party and how she would talk to him about her life at school.

"I watched you grow up more and more every day. You said you looked up to me when I graduated from Saugus," he said.

Angie Davidson, an aunt of 14-year-old Dominic Blackwell, said his death has devastated the family. Davidson was surrounded by other family members, several who were crying, as she spoke.

"He's gone forever. We are broken," Davidson said. "Please remember the two precious lives that we lost."

Dominic Blackwell was an ROTC student at Saugus. Two of his fellow ROTC cadets remembered him as a fun-loving

should allow all those around him to come to the committee and testify under oath," Schumer told reporters. He

said the White House's insistence on blocking witnesses from cooperating begs the question: "What is he hiding?"

Saugus High School will remain closed until Dec. 2, but counselors will be available to help students cope with their grief, said school district officials in the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita.

Detectives were searching for a motive for the killings carried out by Nathaniel Tenosuke Berhow on Thursday, his 16th birthday. The teen pulled a .45-caliber handgun from his backpack and shot five students at random before shooting himself in the head. He died the next day.

A wounded 14-year-old girl was released from the hospital late Friday. A 15-year-old girl remained hospitalized in good condition. A 14-year-old boy was treated and released Thursday.

Berhow had shown no signs of violence and didn't appear to be linked to any ideology, authorities said.

After more than 40 interviews and a search of his home, authorities still were in the dark, Capt. Kent Wegener of the Sheriff's Department's homicide unit said at a news conference Friday.

"We did not find any manifesto, any diary that spelled it out, any suicide note or any writings," he said.

Additional law enforcement will be posted Monday at schools in the Santa Clarita area.



and helpful classmate.

Saugus Principal Vince Perry told the crowd at the vigil that the event was a moment to grieve.

"We are here to grieve the loss of two teenagers, two friends, two students, two siblings and two children," he said.

Joann Garcia said she came to the vigil at Central Park shaken but determined to help the community heal from the shooting at Saugus High School.

"It's very hard. We thought that this would never happen here. It has affected everybody," she said. "We are all uniting."

Santa Clarita Mayor Marsha McLean touched on the theme of the vigil in her remarks. "Tonight and every day we are Saugus strong," she said.

The comments come as the House Intelligence Committee prepares for a second week of public hearings as part of its inquiry, including with the man who is arguably the most important witness. Gordon Sondland, Trump's ambassador to the European Union, is among the only people in-

terviewed to date who had direct conversations with the president about the situation because the White House has blocked others from cooperating with what they dismiss as a sham investigation. And testimony suggests he was intimately involved in discussions that are at the heart of

ACROSS THE NATION

Gunman still at large after killing outside Chicago school

CHICAGO (AP)—Authorities are still searching for a man who allegedly shot and killed his daughter's mother's new boyfriend of outside of a Chicago elementary school. Police say the gunman approached Richard Buick in his SUV early Friday outside of Moving Everest Charter School in the city's West Side. The shooter fired and fled. Authorities say his 6-year-old daughter and her mother, who was holding a baby, were walking into the school. Teacher Scott Musso and school nurse Amanda Thorsen heard the shooting. They went outside and started to perform CPR while Buick was in the driver's seat because they couldn't get him out. Buick's foot slipped and hit the gas, jolting the SUV forward. Musso, a former firefighter and paramedic, told The Chicago Tribune that he began steering to avoid hitting anyone and that he eventually steered the car into a guardrail to stop it. Buick was pronounced dead at the scene. Chicago police spokesman Michael Carroll says the suspected shooter remains at large. Police haven't released his name.

Two Arkansas chemistry professors accused of making meth

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (AP)—Two Arkansas college chemistry professors have been arrested on charges of making meth, in an apparent case of life imitating art. The Clark County sheriff's office says Henderson State University professors Terry David Bateman

and Bradley Allen Rowland were arrested Friday on charges of manufacturing methamphetamine and using drug paraphernalia. It wasn't clear if they remained in jail Sunday, and a jail official said he couldn't give out that information. Tina Hall, a spokeswoman for the Arkadelphia-based school, says Bateman and Rowland have been on administrative leave since Oct. 11. She says three days earlier, police investigated a report of a chemical odor in the campus science center. She says the building reopened Oct. 29 after a company filtered the air. The arrests drew comparisons to the central character in the hit TV series "Breaking Bad," in which a high school chemistry teacher began making methamphetamine.

Authorities: 19 hospitalized after bus hits tractor trailer

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Authorities say more than a dozen people have been hospitalized in Virginia after a commercial bus hit an overturned tractor trailer on Interstate 64. Citing Virginia State Police, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reports 19 people were brought to hospitals after the Sunday morning crash on Afton Mountain at the Augusta and Nelson County line. Police say the tractor trailer was heading east when the driver lost control and overturned across the road. A bus with 20 passengers couldn't avoid the tractor trailer and hit it, splitting the truck in half. Police said 19 people, including two drivers, were hospitalized with injuries ranging from minor to serious. No fatalities have been reported.

Asia

Protesters try to leave HK campus but avoid arrest

HONG KONG (AP)—For days, Hong Kong's protesters fortified a university campus to keep police from getting in. Now, cornered by authorities, they are trying to get out.

Officers repelled one attempt Monday morning with tear gas, driving a few hundred protesters back into the Hong Kong Polytechnic campus.

The protesters want to avoid arrest. The police have set up a dragnet around the campus to pick up as many as they can.

It's a game that has played out repeatedly during the city's months of anti-government unrest. Protesters cause disruption, then try to melt away before police run in to grab as many as they can.

Anti-government protesters have barricaded themselves

inside Polytechnic. Police surrounded the area Sunday night and began moving in after issuing an ultimatum for people to leave the area. The crowd wore raincoats and carried umbrellas to shield themselves from police water cannons.

Riot officers broke in one entrance before dawn as fires raged inside and outside the school, but they didn't appear to get very far. Fiery explosions were seen as protesters responded with gasoline bombs. Police, who have warned that everyone in the area could be charged with rioting, reportedly made a handful of arrests.

At daybreak, protesters remained in control of most of the campus. In one outdoor area, some demonstrators made gasoline bombs while

others dozed while wearing gas masks. Two walked about with bows and quivers of arrows, while many stared at their smartphones.

A lull settled on the area as the president of the university said in a video message that that police have agreed to suspend their use of force.

Jin-Guang Teng said police would allow protesters to leave and he would accompany them to the police station to ensure their cases would be processed fairly.

"I hope that you will accept the proposed temporary suspension of force and leave the campus in a peaceful man-

ner," he said.

It seemed unlikely the protesters would accept the offer given that they would all likely be arrested.

A few hundred streamed out of the campus about 8:15 a.m. in an apparent bid to escape, but they were driven back by police tear gas. Some wearing gas masks calmly picked up smoking tear gas canisters and dropped them into heavy-duty bags, but the protesters decided to retreat with a phalanx of officers lined up across the road in the distance.

Other protesters blocked a major road not far from the Polytechnic campus in a bid to

distract police and help those inside the campus escape.

They tossed paving stones onto stretches of Nathan Road as police chased them with tear gas.

The road closure added to transport woes during the morning commute, with several train stations still closed because of damage by protesters last week and a section of one line closed completely near Polytechnic.

The protests started peacefully in early June, sparked by proposed legislation that would have criminal suspects to be extradited to the mainland. But by the time the bill

was withdrawn, the protests had hardened and broadened into a resistance movement against the territory's government and Beijing.

Activists see the extradition bill as an example of Hong Kong's eroding autonomy under Beijing rule since the 1997 handover from colonial power Britain.

The Education Bureau announced that classes from kindergarten to high school would be suspended again on Monday because of safety concerns. Classes have been canceled since Thursday, after the bureau came under criticism for not doing so earlier.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan's president predicts more pressure from China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen says China's pressure on the self-governing island democracy will only increase amid a changing international situation. Tsai is seeking a second term in January's presidential elections and told supporters Sunday night she had overseen an upgrading in the island's defense against China's military threat. Tsai said: "International political affairs are changing. The U.S.-China trade war is still going on. Protests in Hong Kong are increasingly intense." She added: "Trade patterns are quickly changing. In the future, China will only put Taiwan under more pressure." China cut ties with Taiwan soon after Tsai's 2016 election and has sought to isolate her government diplomatically and economically.

China urges US to 'stop flexing muscles' in South China Sea

BANGKOK (AP)—China has urged the U.S. military to "stop flexing muscles" in the disputed South China Sea. A spokesman for the Chinese ministry of defense told reporters in Bangkok that Beijing wants the U.S. to halt what he called "provocations" in the South China Sea. The spokesman, Col. Wu Qian, spoke to reporters Monday after the Chinese minister of defense, Gen. Wei Fenghe, met with U.S. Defense

Minister Mark Esper on the margins of an Asia defense officials conference. In brief remarks afterward, Esper said they made progress and agreed to hold frequent follow-up talks.

Yahoo Japan, Line to merge business to form online giant

TOKYO (AP)—Online services Yahoo Japan and Line Corp. have announced they are merging. Z Holdings Corp., which owns SoftBank Corp. that operates Yahoo Japan, and Naver Corp. of South Korea, which owns a majority stake in Line said Monday they are aiming for a final agreement by next month. The combination in a joint venture through a tender offer will form an online giant with retail services, advertising and other mobile services such as messaging. Their combined sales would be the largest among Japanese online business operators, surpassing Rakuten Inc., according to Kyodo news service. The companies said combining forces will allow them to stay competitive in a drastically changing market, including expansions into robotics and other new areas. The integration will be carried out equally, according to the companies, but the price is expected to be decided in December. A discussion had been ongoing between Naver and Z Holdings since June, they said. After a deal is completed, Line will get delisted.



A protester bangs a metal rod on a street sign during a confrontation at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019. AP

Kim Jong Un supervises another N. Korean military drill

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a parachuting drill of military sharpshooters and vowed to build an "invincible army," displaying more defiance even as the United States and South Korea called off their own exercises to create space for nuclear diplomacy.

The report Monday by the Korean Central News Agency came hours after President Donald Trump in a tweet urged Kim to "act quickly, get the deal done" while hinting at another summit, writing, "See you soon!"

At an Asian defense ministers' conference in Bangkok on Sunday, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the United States has indefinitely postponed a joint military exercise with South Korea in an "act of goodwill" toward

North Korea. Diplomats have been pushing to resume stalled nuclear talks ahead of Kim's end-of-year deadline for the Trump administration to salvage the diplomacy.

North Korea has publicized two military drill in three days. A report Saturday said Kim urged combat pilots to prepare against enemies "armed to the teeth" while attending a flight demonstration.

KCNA published photos that showed Kim posing with North Korean air force sharpshooters and soldiers who used white parachutes to land on a training field.

Kim while supervising the drill said it's "necessary to wage a drill without notice under the simulated conditions of real war" for improving his military's war readiness and build it into an "invincible

army," KNCA said. Kim did not make any specific comment toward Washington or Seoul in the report.

North Korea has been ramping up missile tests and other military demonstrations in recent months in an apparent pressure tactic over the talks.

Negotiations have faltered since a February summit between Kim and Trump in Vietnam, which broke down after the U.S. rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Kim issued an end-of-year deadline for the Trump administration to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal while saying that the North would seek a "new path" if the United States persists with sanctions and pressure.

Working-level talks last month in Sweden broke down over what the North Koreans described as the Americans' "old stance and attitude."

North Korea last week said the United States has proposed a resumption of stalled nuclear negotiations in December. But North Korean negotiator Kim Myong Gil didn't clearly say whether the North would accept the supposed U.S. offer and said the country has no interest in talks if they are aimed at buying time without discussing solutions.

He said the North isn't willing to make a deal over "matters of secondary importance," such as possible U.S. offers to formally declare an end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which was halted by a cease-fire, not a peace treaty, or establish a liaison office between the countries.

World

Iran's top leader warns 'thugs' as protests reach 100 cities

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Iran's supreme leader on Sunday cautiously backed the government's decision to raise gasoline prices by 50% after days of widespread protests, calling those who attacked public property during demonstrations "thugs" and signaling that a potential crackdown loomed.

The government shut down internet access across the nation of 80 million people to staunch demonstrations that took place in a reported 100 cities and towns. That made it increasingly difficult to gauge whether unrest continued. Images published by state and semiofficial media showed the scale of the damage in images of burned gas stations and banks, torched vehicles and roadways littered with debris.

Since the price hike, demonstrators have abandoned cars along major highways and joined mass protests in the capital, Tehran, and elsewhere. Some protests turned violent, with demonstrators setting fires as gunfire rang out.

It remains to be seen how many people were arrested, injured or killed. Videos from the protests have shown people gravely wounded.

Iranian authorities on Sunday raised the official death toll in the violence to at least three. Attackers targeting a police station in the western city of Kermanshah on Saturday



In this picture released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei talks to clerics in his Islamic thoughts class in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.

killed an officer, the state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday. A lawmaker said another person was killed in a suburb of Tehran. Earlier, one man was reported killed Friday in Sirjan, a city some 800 kilometers (500 miles) south-east of Tehran.

In an address aired Sunday by state television, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "some lost their lives and some places were destroyed," without elaborating. He called the protesters "thugs" who had been

pushed into violence by counterrevolutionaries and foreign enemies of Iran.

Khamenei specifically named those aligned with the family of Iran's late shah, ousted 40 years ago, and an exile group called the Mujahdeen-e-Khalq. The MEK calls for the overthrow of Iran's government and enjoys the support of President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani.

"Setting a bank on fire is not an act done by the people. This

is what thugs do," Khamenei said.

The supreme leader carefully backed the decision of Iran's relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani and others to raise gasoline prices. While Khamenei dictates the country's nuclear policy amid tensions with the U.S. over its unraveling 2015 accord with world powers, he made a point to say he wasn't an "expert" on the gasoline subsidies.

Khamenei ordered security forces "to implement their tasks" and for Iran's citizens to keep clear of violent demonstrators. Iran's Intelligence Ministry said the "key perpetrators of the past two days' riot have been identified and proper action is ongoing."

That seemed to indicate a crackdown could be looming. Economic protests in late 2017 into 2018, as well as those surrounding its dis-

puted 2009 presidential election, were met with a heavy reaction by the police and the Basij, the all-volunteer force of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

The semiofficial Fars news agency, close to the Guard, put the total number of protesters at over 87,000, saying demonstrators ransacked some 100 banks and stores in the country. Authorities arrested some 1,000 people, Fars reported, citing unnamed security officials for the information.

The protests have put renewed pressure on Iran's government as it struggles to overcome the U.S. sanctions that have strangled the economy since Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear deal over a year ago.

While representing a political risk for Rouhani ahead of February parliamentary elections, the demonstrations also show widespread anger among the Iranian people, who have seen their savings evaporate amid scarce jobs and the collapse of the national currency, the rial.

Time for hip waders: Venice sees record 3rd exceptional tide

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Venice was hit Sunday by a record third exceptional tide in the same week while other parts of Italy struggled with a series of weather woes, from rain-swollen rivers to high winds to an out-of-season avalanche.

Stores and museums in Venice were mostly closed in the hardest-hit area around St. Mark's Square, but tourists donned high rubber boots or even hip waders to witness and photograph the spectacle.

Most were disappointed when officials closed the historic square as winds rippled across the rising waters. The doors of the famed St. Mark's Basilica were securely shut to the public, an authorities took precautions—stacking sandbags in canal-side windows—to prevent salt-laden water from entering the crypt again.

Venice's Tide Office said the peak tide of 1.5 meters (nearly 5 feet) hit just after 1 p.m. but a weather front off the coast blocked southerly winds from the Adriatic Sea from pushing the tide to the predict-

ed level of 1.6 meters (5 feet, 2 inches). By early evening, the level was less than a meter (three feet).

Still it marked the third time since Tuesday night's 1.87-meter flood—the worst in 53 years—that water levels in Venice had topped 1.5 meters. Since records began in 1872, that level had never been reached even twice in one year, let alone three times in one week.

While Venetians had a bit of relief, days of heavy rainfall and snowfall elsewhere in Italy swelled rivers to worrisome levels, triggered an avalanche in the Alps and saw dramatic rescues of people unable to flee rising waters.

In Venice, many store owners in the swanky area around St. Mark's completely emptied their shops, while others put their wares as high as possible and counted on automatic pumping systems to keep the water at bay. In one luxury boutique, employees used water vacuums and big squeegee mops to keep the brackish la-

goon waters from advancing.

Venice's mayor has put the flooding damage at hundreds of millions of euros and Italian officials have declared a state of emergency for the area. They say Venice is both sinking into the mud and facing rising sea levels due to climate change.

Luca D'Acunto and his girlfriend Giovanna Maglietta surveyed the rising water from a bridge, wondering how to reach their nearby hotel in their colorful yet inadequate rubber boots.

"We made the reservation this week before the floods and had paid already, so we came," said D'Acunto, a 28-year-old from Naples. "Instead of a romantic trip, we'll have an adventurous one."

Most museums were closed as a precaution, but the Correr Museum, which overlooks St. Mark's Square and explores the art and history of Venice, remained open. Tourists enjoyed a Venetian Spritz—a colorful aperitif with an Italian bitter and Prosecco—as the waters rose.

Belarus leader dismisses democracy even as vote takes place

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—Belarus' authoritarian president has brushed off concerns that Sunday's parliament election, from which many opposition figures have been excluded, would be regarded as neither free nor fair.

After casting his ballot in a polling station in the capital of Minsk, President Alexander Lukashenko was asked about whether it was important that the election be regarded as valid by Western countries.

"I'm not in the habit of worrying about this matter," he said, adding that his administration "isn't playing at some kind of democracy."

Lukashenko, a former collective farm boss, has ruled the ex-Soviet nation of 10 million with a heavy hand since 1994, suppressing dissent and independent news media and retaining elements of a Soviet-style economy.

Some voters appreciated Lukashenko's iron grip on the economy.

"In Belarus, they preserved the best aspects of the

Soviet Union—free medical treatment, a pension—and we're afraid to lose this and we support the authorities," 71-year-old retiree Tatiana Rusetskaya said after casting her ballot.

But others say the stability that Lukashenko vaunts is overrated.

"Living (standards) have become worse and my family doesn't feel the stability that the authorities talk about. Only prices rise stably, not pay," said 40-year-old Dmitry Velichko.

In Sunday's election, 516 candidates were contesting 110 parliament seats.

Final turnout figures were not immediately available when the polls closed, but the national elections commission said 70% of the electorate had voted by 6 p.m. (1500 GMT).

Earlier, the commission said 36% of the country's voters cast early ballots in the election, raising concerns among the opposition that the results could be manipulated because the ballot

boxes are unguarded and the vote count is done without the presence of observers.

Last week, an independent observer filmed a woman trying to stuff ballots into a box at a polling station in Brest. Election Commission chief Lydia Yermoshina, who has held the job for 23 years, responded by saying the observer who made the video should be stripped of his accreditation.

"It doesn't matter what an observer says," she said. "The most important thing is the ballot box. The truth is determined by the vote count."

The U.S. and the European Union have constantly criticized Belarusian authorities for flawed elections and crackdowns on the opposition, introducing sanctions against Lukashenko's government. But some of those penalties have been lifted in recent years as Belarus freed political prisoners as part of Lukashenko's efforts to reach out to the West during tense times with Russia, Belarus' main sponsor and ally.

Focus

By **IVAN MORENO**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—When the U.S. Census Bureau counts residents of Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods next year, a significant portion of their population will be missing: prisoners.

For these predominantly black areas, with incarceration rates among the highest in the nation, the government's longstanding policy to count inmates as residents of the prison where they are held diminishes their political power back home.

"When you undercount people for the census, they end up losing in that community dollars that could go toward services that can help remediate poverty," said state Rep. David Bowen, a Milwaukee Democrat co-sponsoring legislation to end what critics call prison gerrymandering.

Democrats argue the system shifts resources from traditionally liberal urban centers—home to many inmates who are disproportionately black and Hispanic—to rural, white, Republican-leaning areas where prisons are usually located.

"It's really artificially shifting money ... based on something that isn't reality," said U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, a Wisconsin Democrat who is co-sponsoring legislation in Congress to change the census policy.

Republicans, however, argue that towns with prisons need federal money for the additional costs they bring, such as medical care, law enforce-

ment and road maintenance.

"There are a lot of costs. It's not all peaches and cream having a prison in your community," said Arizona state Rep. T.J. Shope, a Republican who represents the town of Florence, where prisoners represent about two-thirds of the population of 30,000.

Although the Census Bureau has counted inmates as prison residents since 1850, states control redistricting and can move those populations to their home counties for that purpose or not include inmates at all when maps are drawn. Some states controlled by Democrats are passing laws to prohibit using prison populations to draw legislative maps. Washington and Nevada this year became the fifth and sixth states to pass laws since 2010 banning using prisoners for redistricting, joining New York, Maryland, California and Delaware.

Nine other states, including Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, have similar proposals pending. Connecticut, which has the fifth-highest incarceration rate for black men, argues in a federal lawsuit that using prisoners for redistricting purposes—and putting them in districts where they didn't live before incarceration—violates the one-person, one-vote requirement of the 14th Amendment. A federal appeals court in September allowed the lawsuit to proceed.

The Census Bureau's policy pertaining to prisoners didn't get much attention until recent decades because the population wasn't large enough to alter representation, but now the U.S. imprisons more people

than any other nation.

The way inmates are counted impacts the distribution of dollars and heightens political jostling over representation in legislative districts and local offices—even though prisoners can't even vote in most states.

"The rural counties benefit tremendously off of the back of individuals who are incarcerated in those regions," said Jerome Dillard, the state director of Ex-incarcerated People Organizing, a Milwaukee-based advocacy group that, among other things, wants to restore voting rights to former prisoners.

Dillard, 65, said he was in prison in Wisconsin from 1992 to 1996 for using a fake Social Security number to open a bank account. He said prisoners often know nothing of the community where they're counted and never benefit from services available to permanent residents.

Meanwhile, the districts that inmates call home diminish in size and political representation.

An April study from two Villanova University professors illustrates this.

Professors Briana Remster and Rory Kramer counted more than 100,000 black inmates as residents of Philadelphia, where they were from,

rather than in Pennsylvania prisons. Their finding: The city would have gained at least one majority-minority state legislative district.

Wisconsin's prison population is smaller than Pennsylvania's but the effects of using prisoners in redistricting are still apparent.

Wisconsin state prisons confined about 23,500 black men as of August, including 7,800 from Milwaukee—a Democratic stronghold.

State legislative District 53, about 90 minutes northwest of Milwaukee, has a large black population—larger than 74 other state districts, at least on paper. But of the 2,784 African-Americans in the district in the last census, almost 80 percent were incarcerated, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, a nonprofit that wants to end using prisoners for redistricting.

"What we see is that you're kind of padding the numbers, you're allowing certain districts to have a particular voting power when they don't actually have that population," said Rep. David Crowley, a Milwaukee Democrat co-sponsoring the bill to count prisoners where they last lived.

Crowley said most prison-

ers aren't serving long sentences; nearly 65 percent are expected to return home within five years, meaning the effect of the census count—undertaken every 10 years—will persist even after they're back home, he said.

But Shope, the Arizona lawmaker, compared counting inmates as part of legislative districts to counting people in the country illegally.

"I don't consider it a problem," Shope said. "The census is a snapshot, a snapshot in time on one day, and we count inmates where they are currently housed the same way we count undocumented residents where they're currently residing."

The Census Bureau is not changing its current policy to count prisoners as prison residents, though it has opened the matter up for discussion. In a response to public comments on the issue, the bureau said the practice is consistent with how the agency has long defined what a person's "usual residence," is, meaning "where a person lives and sleeps most of the time, which is not always the same as their legal residence." The decision came despite nearly 78,000 public comments in 2016 favor-

ing counting inmates at their pre-prison address. Four commenters favored keeping the current policy.

But the Census Bureau said that since some states are considering whether to change where they count prisoners, states in 2021 can request a special dataset that will list prisoners at their pre-prison address for redistricting purposes.

Democrats hope Wisconsin seeks that data, but they face long odds in the state Legislature, where majority Republicans withstood years of litigation over accusations that they gerrymandered legislative districts in their favor in 2011.

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, a Republican, said he opposes the bill to change how prisoners are counted.

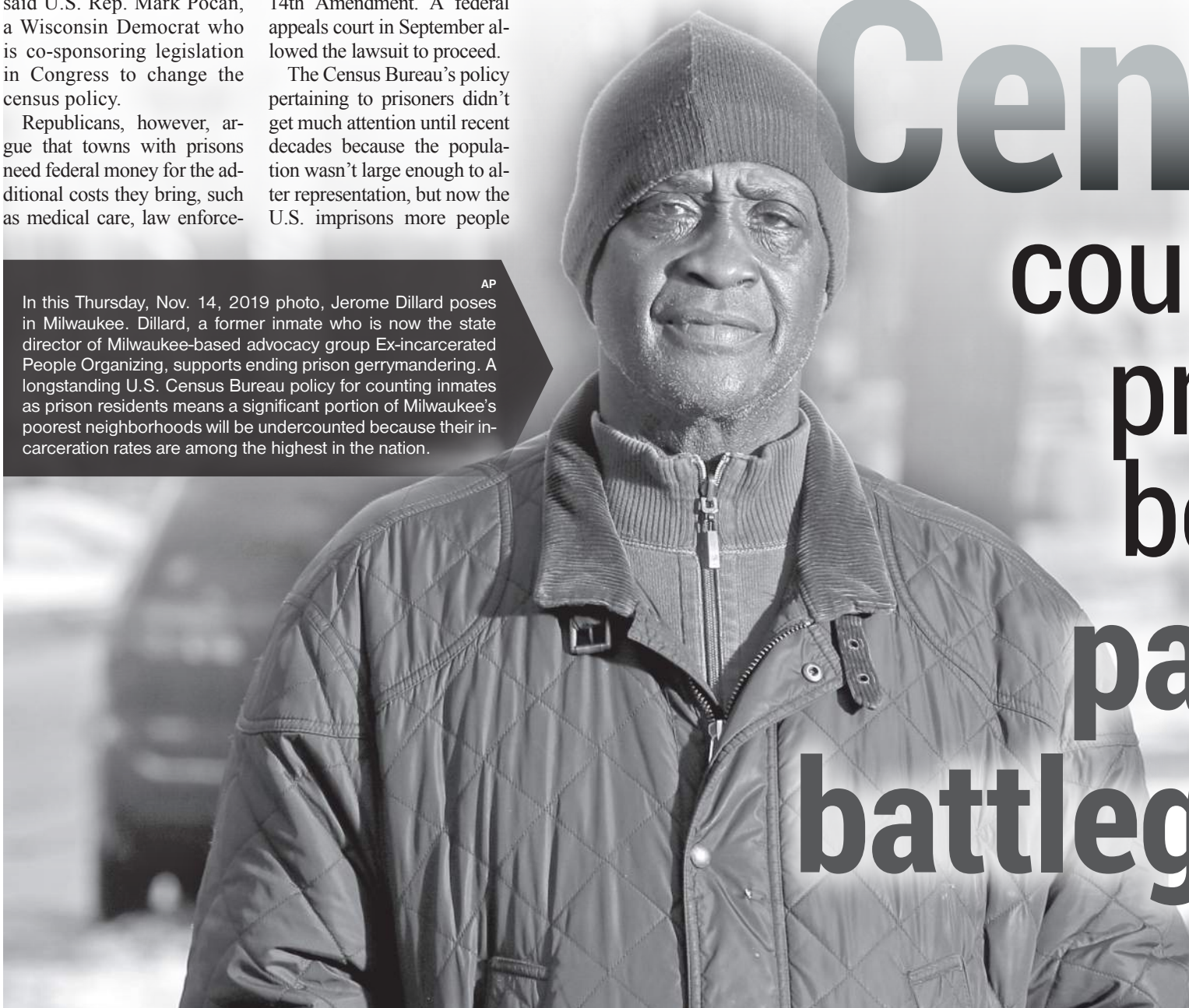
"I think the system has worked well as it is," Vos said.

Bowen disagrees. He said Wisconsin needs to come to terms with its history.

"When you are growing up in areas that have been, you know, that have been on the receiving end of oppression and plunder, of decades of resources being taken from those communities," he said, "it really means that we should be advocating to right that wrong."

Census counting of prisoners becomes partisan battleground

AP
In this Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019 photo, Jerome Dillard poses in Milwaukee. Dillard, a former inmate who is now the state director of Milwaukee-based advocacy group Ex-incarcerated People Organizing, supports ending prison gerrymandering. A longstanding U.S. Census Bureau policy for counting inmates as prison residents means a significant portion of Milwaukee's poorest neighborhoods will be undercounted because their incarceration rates are among the highest in the nation.



Overdrive

2019 Ford Expedition

pulls like a beast, drives like a Winnebago



TNS
The 2019 Ford Expedition stuffs a lot into a large package.

By SCOTT STURGIS
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

2019 Ford Expedition Limited Stealth 4x4: When you need some space.

Price: \$77,045 as tested. \$7,540 for a Stealth Edition package (turning the chrome black, mostly) including panoramic roof, 360-degree camera, Driver Assistance Package, and voice-activated infotainment. \$2,070 for Convenience Package, adding black roof rails, advanced cargo manager, and second-row inflatable belts.

Marketer's pitch: "Built to stand out."

Conventional wisdom: Motor Trend likes that it's "roomy, capable, and powerful" but not the "rough 10-speed automatic."

Reality: Stealth Edition?!? Stealthy like an elephant. Meet the "Stealthphant."

What's new: Coming off a redesign for 2018, the Ford Expedition carries over with just a few enhancements for the 2019 year (and 2020 as well). But it's still a worthy competitor to the Enclave, Sequoia and Tel-

luride, offering three rows and plenty of space.

Up to speed: The 3.5-liter EcoBoost V-6 powering the Expedition — the only engine choice — produces 375 horsepower and 470 pound-feet of torque. Motor Trend says it hits 60 mph in 6.2 seconds, but it sure feels like trying to navigate a single-family house along the way. The Expedition doesn't hold a straight line well under duress, starting or stopping.

On the road: I have never had the opportunity to pilot an RV, but I suspect the Expedition is a lot like that. It's the big and hard to keep composed. It's the RL Burnside of SUVs — rollin' and tumblin'.

A Sport mode would be nice. Though a sporty Expedition seems like an oxymoron, the Sport mode in the Cadillac Escalade makes that large SUV feel like a comfortable driving companion.

But the underpinnings of the Expedition shine through — towing up to a whopping 9,300 pounds when equipped right.

Still, it's worth wondering why the

same Ford that makes the delightfully car-like F150 can't do something smoother to tame its Winnebago-like Expedition.

Shifty: The 10-speed automatic transmission leaves a bit to be desired as well. First, the dial controller is a little off-putting, and only console buttons change the gears if desired.

Left in automatic mode, the dashboard features a column of numbers 1 to 10, noting which gear you're in. It's a neat feature, but also a drawback for Ford, as it made clear just how hard the Expedition was searching for the right gear. I haven't seen that much hunting since I lived in Clearfield County, Pa., during deer season.

It really made its true nature known on our last day. It had sat for three days, so startup was rough. Then a trip across the Pennsylvania Turnpike was just rough and shifty. Only after a shutdown for some food did it seem to regain its composure as we rolled toward the Garden State. I suspect a couple of software issues plagued the test model.

Driver's Seat: An Expedition driver will certainly feel like king of the road from way up here, more so than in the Telluride. Unfortunately, seeing around the vehicle can be next to impossible — the outboard mirror has to be canted perfectly or cars in adjoining lanes will disappear at inopportune times, and I have the heart-rate numbers to prove it.

Friends and stuff: We had the opportunity to fill up the Expedition with five of us and our luggage for a trip to Newark to catch a plane to the Midwest.

Rear seat space and access are impressive. The middle-row captain's chairs make moving around the cabin easy, and the seats offer comfort and adjustment. Rear-seat passengers have almost minivan-level accommodations on the corners, but the middle seat is high and hard. Headroom is a bit of a challenge on top of all the truck components. Even my giant son found the space impressive for a couple of hours. "I think you should buy this," he said. "It's so roomy."

Stow up to 104 cubic feet behind the first row and 20.9 behind the last, although still tight for five people's luggage for a long trip. Plan on stacking and get in the ready position when opening the liftgate.

Play some tunes: The infotainment center features plenty of touchscreen operation, but much of it is direct and simple. Knobs control volume and tuning, so that helps.

Sound is an A- or so, fairly impressive.

Keeping warm and cool: The seat heaters and coolers are impressive. Heater vents are hard to direct and impossible to block completely.

Fuel economy: Another part to the RV feel of the Expedition would be watching the distance to empty drop precipitously while driving. The Expedition is a piggy, averaging about 17 mpg in my usual realm of testing, plus one trip down the New Jersey Turnpike.

Where it's built: Louisville, Ky.

How it's built: Consumer Reports gives the Expedition a predicted reliability of 4 out of 5.

Indicator-based maintenance recommendation systems are not ideal

Q: Honda doesn't offer maintenance schedules in their manuals. You're supposed to use the letter codes as they pop up. Unfortunately, the minder keeps getting reset at 5,000 miles for oil changes, and I don't have a chance to see it. It's a 2010 Fit with 96,000 miles. Have I passed the time for tune-up?

A: I agree, an indicator-based maintenance recommendation system doesn't provide information on what atypical services may be looming in one's future—or accidentally skipped in the past.

Tune-ups are a thing of the past, as other than renewing spark plugs and checking/resetting valve clearance (at 110,000 miles), renewing coolant (at 120,000 miles), and inspecting idle speed (at 160,000 miles), there just isn't anything to tune on your L-4 1.5 liter engine. Replacement of the fuel filter is not recommended unless fuel pressure drops below the specified value. Doing so is also a pain, as it's integrated into the fuel gauge sending unit/fuel pump/pressure regulator assembly within the fuel tank. The engine air filter, along with cabin air filter, are to be renewed every 30,000 miles.

Your 5,000-mile oil/filter changes appear to be based on the severe service schedule, as the normal service schedule

lists oil changes each 10,000 miles. Severe service is defined as folks who (any of these): drive less than five miles per trip or in freezing temperatures, drive less than 10 miles per trip, drive in hot (over 90 F) conditions, encounter extensive idling or long periods of stop-and-go driving, drive with a rooftop carrier, drive in mountainous conditions, or drive on muddy, dusty or de-iced roads.

Your Honda engine is equipped with a timing chain rather than a timing belt to connect the crank and cam shafts. This is a blessing, as a timing belt replacement can be a rather expensive service to perform each 90,000 miles or so. Chain replacement isn't specified as a maintenance item, although to insure long life proper oil changes using high quality oil are a must. Additionally, modern engines typically employ sophisticated mechanisms to vary valve lift/duration/timing, and engine oil is used as the hydraulic fluid to make this magic happen. Tiny passages and control actuators are subject to sludge and clogging, again making routine oil changes important.

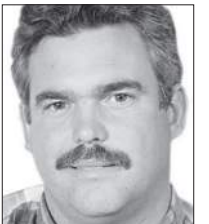
Likely, independent of the indicator-based services, renewing brake fluid each three years is recommended, and transmission fluid would best be replaced every 60,000 miles (30,000 if towed

UNDER THE HOOD

By BRAD BERGHOLDT

Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, Calif. Readers can contact him by email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com. Personal replies are attempted. An archive of past columns and additional consumer automotive information can be found at www.bradsautoadvice.com.



behind an RV or other). Recommended owner monthly checks include exterior lights, engine oil and coolant reserve tank level, brake fluid level and tire inflation. And it's certainly not a bad idea to keep an eye open for fluid leaks, odd sounds, parking brake effectiveness, unusual odors and unusual tire wear. Inspecting/renewing windshield wipers is a good idea with the upcoming change of season, and perhaps hold on to the old ones to be your summer wipers

Life & Style

UK media: Prince Andrew's sex claims rebuttal a PR disaster

LONDON (AP)—British media on Sunday slammed Prince Andrew's effort to rebut claims that he had sex with a teenager who says she was trafficked by Jeffrey Epstein,

branding his televised interview a complete public relations disaster.

In a rare interview with BBC Newsnight that was broadcast late Saturday, Andrew

categorically denied having sex with the woman, Virginia Roberts Giuffre. But Britain's newspapers and social media commentators criticized him for defending his friendship with Epstein and for failing to show empathy for the convicted sex-offender's victims.

"I expected a train wreck," said Charlie Proctor, editor of the Royal Central website, which covers the British monarchy. "That was a plane

crashing into an oil tanker, causing a tsunami, triggering a nuclear explosion-level bad."

Giuffre has said Epstein forced her to have sex with Andrew in 2001, when she was 17.

She says Epstein flew her around the world on private planes to have sex with powerful men, and that she had



Andrew

sexual encounters with Andrew in London, New York and in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The BBC's Emily Maitlis grilled Andrew on the details of an alleged encounter in March of that year,

when Giuffre says she dined with the prince in London, danced with him at the Tramp nightclub, then had sex with

him at a house in the tony London neighborhood of Belgravia.

"I can absolutely categorically tell you it never happened," Andrew said.

The 59-year-old prince said he had "no recollection" of ever meeting Giuffre, adding that there are "a number of things that are wrong" with her account. He also suggested that a picture showing him with his arm around the teenage Giuffre may have been faked.

Jon Voight, Alison Krauss honored with national medals

WASHINGTON (AP)—Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight, singer and musician Alison Krauss and mystery writer James Patterson are among the artists and philanthropists being honored by President Donald Trump for their contributions to the arts or the humanities, the first recipients of prestigious national medals since Trump took office.

The White House announced four recipients of the National Medal of Arts and four of the National Humanities Medal in a statement Sunday night.

Voight is one of Trump's few vocal Hollywood backers, and has hailed him as "the greatest president of this century." Trump is also honoring the musicians of the U.S. military, who frequently entertain at White House events.

Trump will award the medals during a ceremony at the White House on Thursday.

While the honors had been an annual affair during past administrations, they have not been awarded since Trump's inauguration in January 2017. The most recent arts or hu-

manities medals were bestowed by President Barack Obama in September 2016.

The recipients of the National Medal of Arts are:

—Alison Krauss, the bluegrass-country singer and musician, "for making extraordinary contributions to American music." The

White House misspelled her name in its release.

■ Sharon Percy Rockefeller "for being a renowned champion of the arts, generous supporter of charity, and a pioneer of new ideas and

approaches in the field of public policy."

■ The Musicians of the United States Military "for personifying excellence in music and service to country."

■ Jon Voight "for his exceptional capacity as an actor to portray deeply complex characters." Voight starred in "Midnight Cowboy," the 1969 film that won an Academy Award for best picture, and he won the best actor Oscar for 1978's "Coming Home." He appears in the Showtime series "Ray Donovan."



Voight

Catalan poet Joan Margarit wins Spain's Cervantes Prize

MADRID (AP)—Spain's government announced Thursday that Catalan poet Joan Margarit won the 2019 Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honor.

Margarit, who is also an architect, has published more than 20 volumes of poetry—mainly in Catalan but also in Spanish. The 81-year-old has won several awards for his verse, including the Pablo Neruda prize in Chile.

"If a poem cannot console a person in a difficult situation then it is not worth anything," Margarit told Spanish news agency Europa Press after hearing he had won the Cervantes Prize.

The jury said Margarit "has enriched both the Spanish and the Catalan language and

represents the plurality of our culture."

Catalan, along with Spanish, is spoken in Spain's northeastern region of Catalonia.

The award for Margarit comes amid an increase in tensions in Catalonia over its separatist movement.

Asked about the political situation in Catalonia, the poet said he was "tired" of it.

The 125,000-euro (\$137,600) award generally alternates between Spanish and Latin American writers.

Uruguayan poet Ida Vitale won in 2018.

The prizes are presented each April 23 on the anniversary of the death in 1616 of Miguel de Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote," in a ceremony attended by King Felipe VI.

Trump contributes foreword to paperback of McConnell book

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The paperback edition of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's "The Long Game" includes a foreword from a well-placed political ally: President Donald Trump.

In the foreword, shared Friday by the publisher Sentinel with The Associated Press, Trump praises the Kentucky Republican as an ideal partner in confirming conservative judges, notably Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. More than 150 federal judges have been nominated by Trump and confirmed by the Senate. About one-quarter of federal appeals court judges were nominated by Trump.

"The effort to transform the courts is one that will benefit the American people far into the future. It is a legacy of which I am immensely proud and one for which Mitch McConnell deserves great credit," Trump writes. "Transforming the federal judiciary is the ultimate long game!"

The paperback comes out December 3, more than three years after the hardcover. The gap is unusually long



In this Nov. 4, 2019 file photo, President Donald Trump greets Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., on stage during a campaign rally in Lexington, Ky.

AP

but the new edition is well-timed for McConnell's reelection campaign next year.

"The Long Game" was first published in May 2016, soon after the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. McConnell famously refused to let then-President Barack Obama fill the seat, now held by Gorsuch, whom Trump nominated in 2017. In an afterword for the paperback, McConnell writes of his long friendship with Scalia, defends his decision to keep the seat open and describes close

coordination between himself and Trump for the Gorsuch and Kavanaugh nominations.

Trump nominated Kavanaugh in the summer of 2018 and McConnell confirms reports from the time that he was concerned Kavanaugh's many years in government, including more than a decade as a federal judge, would result in a "paper trail" that could extend the process past the midterm elections. He then recounts the testimony of Christine Blasey Ford, who had alleged that Kava-

naugh attempted to sexually assault her while both were in high school.

"Immediately after Dr. Ford had completed her testimony that morning, the phone rang. It was a familiar voice: the president," McConnell writes. "He and I both agreed that Dr. Ford had been a compelling witness. I expressed to the president that it was only 'half-time,' however, and that he should wait until completion of the second half before making any decisions.

Creator of Lizzo's signature slogan could get a Grammy nod

NEW YORK (AP)—Mina Lioness' longstanding battle to finally receive writing credit on Lizzo's megahit song "Truth Hurts" is paying off in more ways than one: it could win her a potential Grammy Award.

Lizzo's breakthrough tune features the signature line—"I just took a DNA test, turns out I'm 100% that bitch"—a lyric that originated from a 2017 tweet by Lioness and was turned into a popular meme. And now Lioness, a singer based in London who Lizzo agreed to give

writing credit to, has a chance at earning her first Grammy nomination if "Truth Hurts" scores a nomination for song of the year—a category reserved for the writers of a song.

"I haven't really been able to kind of just sit and ponder what the ramifications is of this happening. I mean, it's just surreal to me," Lioness said in a phone interview from London with The Associated Press this week. "I didn't actually realize that the Grammy nominations were being announced next week, but I knew that this

would be a possibility for me when it's all said and done. But for it to come through so soon as well, it's just another one of those moments when you're like, 'Wow.'"

The Recording Academy will announce its nominees on Nov. 20. When Grammy submissions were due earlier this year, Lioness had not been a listed writer of "Truth Hurts," but Atlantic Records, Lizzo's label home, told the AP they are in the process of submitting Lioness' name as a co-writer of "Truth Hurts" to

the Grammys.

"Truth Hurts," which topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for seven weeks, is a likely contender in categories like song of the year, in which Lioness would share the nomination with co-writers Lizzo, Ricky Reed, Tele and Jesse Saint John. The song could also land a nomination for record of the year, a category that awards the song's performers, producers and engineers/mixers, or best pop solo performance, an award that would only be given to Lizzo.

Mo’Nique sues Netflix for discrimination in show offer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mo’Nique sued Netflix on Thursday for race and sex discrimination in its offer for a proposed comedy special, accusing the streaming service of giving her a lowball offer that was part of a larger company tendency to underpay black women.

The comedian and Oscar-winning actress says Netflix officials were

effusive in their praise of her work before they offered her \$500,000 in early 2018 for a comedy special and refused to negotiate further.

The suit says that stands in contrast to deals reportedly worth tens of millions of dollars for comedy specials from Chris Rock, Ellen DeGeneres, Dave Chapelle and Ricky Gervais, and that the streaming service was

willing to negotiate with other comics.

She called for a boycott of Netflix a week after the deal fell through in January 2018 and has been publicly critical of the company since.

Netflix denied the lawsuit’s main allegations in a



Mo’Nique

statement.

“We care deeply about inclusion, equity, and diversity and take any accusations of discrimination very seriously,” the statement said. “We believe our opening offer to Mo’Nique was fair—which is why we will be fighting this

lawsuit.”

The suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court alleges Netflix violated California’s fair employment and civil rights laws and is representative of the major pay inequity in all employment for black women.

“I had a choice to make,” Mo’Nique said in a post on her Instagram account after the suit was filed. “I could accept what I felt was pay discrimination or I could stand up for those who came before me and those who will come after me. I chose to stand up.”

The suit claims Netflix has a corporate culture that tolerates racial insensitivity and impropriety, lacks diversity and underpays women and minorities. It cites the revelation last year that actor Matt Smith was paid more for his supporting role on Netflix’s “The Crown” than actress Claire Foy was paid to play the title role.

And it alleges that Netflix’s refusal to deal with Mo’Nique, shutting her out of what has become an essential home for comedy specials, amounts to retaliation.

The 51-year-old whose real name is Monique Angela Hicks first gained fame as one of stand-up’s Queens of Comedy, and starred in the UPN series “The Parkers.” She won an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her performance in the 2009 film, “Precious.”

Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen relish roles in ‘The Good Liar’

By JILL DOBSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Roles for older actors can fall into some predictable tropes, but Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen say their new film, “The Good Liar,” let them brush aside clichés and even their characters’ mortality for a good cat-and-mouse thriller.

“Elderly characters are sort of there to be the lovely old grandfather or granddad that the kids go and visit,” Mirren said. “As you get older and you realize, ‘You know what? I still have agency in my life. Things are still happening in my life. It doesn’t all stop when you’re 50.’”

The film, which opens in theaters Friday, brings Mirren, 74, and McKellen, 80, together on the big screen for the first time.

McKellen plays Roy, a man who has spent his life swindling others and sets his sights on Mirren’s character, a lonely widow named Betty. Roy is hoping to cash in on Betty’s life savings.

While Betty’s grandson, played



This Nov. 3, 2019 photo shows actors Helen Mirren, left, and Ian McKellen pose for a portrait to promote their film “The Good Liar” in New York.

AP

by Russell Tovey, senses danger in the new suitor, the film’s focus stays squarely on Betty and Roy.

“This film could not happen unless these people were the age they were at,” McKellen said.

McKellen is keenly aware that audiences may balk at seeing a film with two older leads in it, but there are advantages.

“Although my heart sinks when I go, ‘Oh, do I have to go see a film

with two old actors in it.’ What you do get ... on the whole is pretty good acting because they’ve been at it and they know what they’re up to,” he said.

“There is nothing about mortality in this movie and that I love,” director Bill Condon said. “Putting them into a very contemporary thriller, it’s a good reminder of the fact that people should get to do everything.”

Condon said he’d seen Mirren and McKellen act together on Broadway, so he knew what to expect.

“I knew they were great together, but it is—well, it’s like what we always complain about, right? The paucity of parts for people of a certain age,” Condon said. “They should go on and do four movies now, and I hope they do because they have an incredible kind of rapport.”

Both Mirren and McKellen have some blockbuster projects on the horizon. McKellen appears in Tom Hooper’s “Cats” adaptation, and Mirren is set to appear in the ninth installment of the “Fast and Furious” franchise in 2020.

‘Ford v Ferrari’ speeds to No. 1; ‘Charlie’s Angels’ fizzles

NEW YORK (AP)—“Ford v Ferrari” left its competition in the rear-view mirror, racing to an estimated \$31 million debut at the box office in a No. 1 finish that counted as a win for big-budget originality.

James Mangold’s racing drama rode into the weekend with strong reviews and Oscar buzz for its leads, Christian Bale and Matt Damon. And audiences enthusiastically greeted it, giving the \$98 million movie an A+ CinemaScore. “Ford v Ferrari,” which dramatizes the Ford Motor Co.’s push to unseat perennial power Ferrari at France’s 24 Hours of Le Mans race in 1966, has been considered a rare kind of high-priced throwback built more on story, practical effects and star power than intellectual property.

Elizabeth Banks’ “Charlie’s Angels” reboot couldn’t keep up. The Sony Pictures release opened below expectations with \$8.6 million domestically and \$19.3 million overseas, according to studio estimates Sunday. Though the movie was relatively modestly budgeted at \$48 million, it fell well short of the \$40.1 million debut of the 2000’s “Charlie’s Angels,” with Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu. (The 2003 sequel opened similarly with \$37.6 million.)

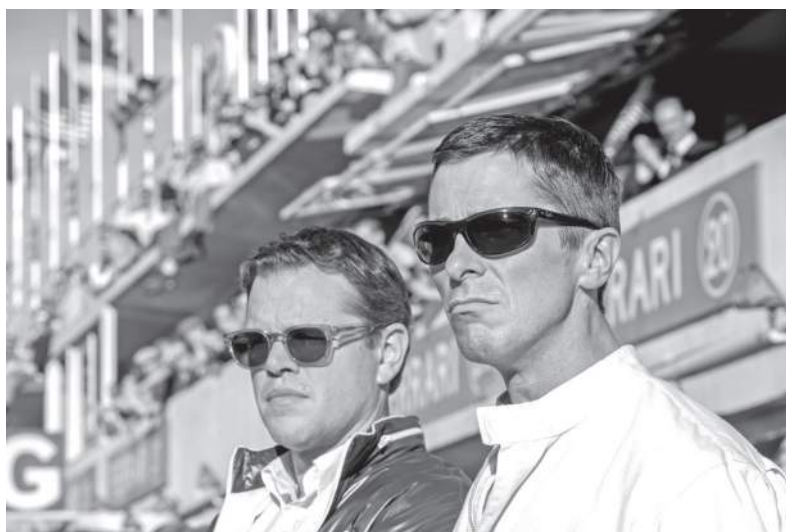
Banks’ version of the 1976-1981

TV series gave the material a feminist spin. But Kristen Stewart was the sole widely known Angel, starring alongside Naomi Scott and Ella Balinska. And “Charlie’s Angels” couldn’t best the World War II movie “Midway” in its second week. It slotted in just ahead of “Angels” in second, with \$8.8 million.

Lately, at least, Hollywood’s efforts to dust off old intellectual property have been received with a shrug by moviegoers. November has already seen disappointing debuts for the Paramount Pictures sequel “Terminator: Dark Fate” (\$56.9 million in three weeks) and Warner Bros.’ “The Shining” riff, “Doctor Sleep” (\$25 million in two weeks).

That made the initial success of “Ford v Ferrari” stand out even more. The Walt Disney Co. release’s opening weekend, which included \$21.4 million internationally, has several laps to go before reaching profitability. But as an adult-oriented action film with excellent audience scores and awards attention, “Ford v Ferrari” is likely to play well for weeks to come.

“We knew that it was a real crowd-pleaser. Anywhere we played it, whether at festivals or screenings, people have come out responding so positively to it. We knew that we had a little jewel here,” said



This image released by 20th Century Fox shows Christian Bale, right, and Matt Damon in a scene from the film, “Ford v. Ferrari.”

AP

Cathleen Taff, Disney’s distribution chief. “James Mangold and the Fox team, combined with the talent behind it—Matt and Christian—it’s just a great, exciting, ambitious film. It’s exactly what you want to see on the big screen.”

“Ford v Ferrari,” made by 20th Century Fox before the company’s acquisition by Disney, is the biggest Fox hit yet released by Disney. Much of the studio’s previous Fox output, including “Stuber” and the X-Men film “Dark Phoenix,” has flopped. The “Ford v Ferrari” release comes sandwiched between two ma-

ajor Disney initiatives—the recently launched Disney+ streaming service, and the upcoming “Frozen 2” release.

Warner Bros.’ “The Good Liar,” a mystery starring Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen, was the weekend’s other new wide release. It managed a modest \$5.7 million, adding to a string of underperforming adult-targeting releases for the studio, including “Blinded by the Light,” “The Goldfinch” and “The Kitchen.”

Those disappointments all pale, though, to the Warner success “Joker.” On Friday, it passed \$1 billion worldwide.

Trump Jr.’s book is a No. 1 bestseller, but with an edge

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump Jr.’s “Triggered” is a No. 1 New York Times bestseller, although not without an edge.

“Triggered: How the Left Thrives on Hate and Wants to Silence Us” came out last week and tops the hard-cover nonfiction list that will appear in the Nov. 24 edition of the Times.

Among those celebrating was President Donald Trump, who tweeted “Wow! Was just told that my son’s book, ‘Triggered,’ is Number One on The New York Times Bestseller List. Congratulations Don!”

A dagger symbol appears next to the listing, indicating that some of the sales were “bulk purchases,” often meaning that the author or someone associated with the author bought a substantial number of copies. A spokesman for the Republican National Committee, Steve Guest, said Thursday that the RNC has been offering “Triggered” as a fundraising incentive, a common practice for political books.

Guest said copies were bought “to keep up with demand,” not in a “large bulk purchase.”

“Triggered” also placed high on the weekly report compiled by NPD BookScan, which tracks around 85% of the print market. According to BookScan, “Triggered” sold 71,000 copies last week, second only to Jeff Kinney’s latest “Diary of a Wimpy Kid.” NPD could not immediately determine how many of those sales were bulk sales.

Pierce Brosnan's sons named Golden Globe Awards ambassadors

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Pierce Brosnan's sons have been chosen as the Golden Globe ambassadors to assist with the glitzy awards ceremony.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Thursday evening that 22-year-old Dylan and 18-year-old Paris Brosnan will assume the ambassador roles for the 77th annual Golden Globes Awards in January.

An ambassador is traditionally the child of a celebrity who assists with award presentations, handing out trophies to winners and escorting

them off stage.

The Brosnan brothers said they are more excited than nervous to appear on stage at the awards.

"We watched the Globes growing up ... and I've gone with him a few times. So it's truly an honor to be here in this capacity and pay homage to our father's legacy," said Dylan Brosnan about his father, a two-time Golden Globe nominee.

Dylan and Paris are the first male ambassadors after the HFPA rechristened the role, formerly known as Miss Golden Globe, in 2017. The



AP
Dylan Brosnan, from left, Pierce Brosnan, and Paris Brosnan attend the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and The Hollywood Reporter celebration of the 2020 award season and Golden Globe Ambassador reveal at Catch LA on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, in West Hollywood, Calif.

Black Eyed Peas star accuses Qantas attendant of racism

SYDNEY (AP)—Black Eyed Peas musician will.i.am has accused a flight attendant from Australia's national carrier Qantas of being racist and rude to him on a flight.



will.i.am

The musician said he was met by police at Sydney Airport on Saturday after an incident with an "overly aggressive flight attendant" who he says was upset with him because he couldn't hear her through his noise-cancelling headphones.

He tweeted a photo of a police officer and said: "This is how you're greeted when you land from Brisbane to Sydney flying @qantas with a #RacistFlightattendant." He then named the flight attendant.

Qantas said in a statement it rejected the allegation that the incident had anything to do with race and said it was a "misunderstanding."

"There was a misunderstanding on board, which seems to have been exacerbated

by will.i.am wearing noise cancelling headphones and not being able to hear instructions from crew," the airline said in a statement. "We'll be following up with will.i.am and wish him well for the rest of the tour."

He and the Black Eyed Peas are in Australia to perform as part of a world tour.

In other tweets, will.i.am said he wasn't the only person on the flight to be "disrespected." Some Twitter users who said they were passengers on the flight agreed with him.

He did, however, get criticized by some who felt it was inappropriate for him to publicly name the flight attendant on his Twitter account, which has 12.8 million followers.

"I don't regret my actions," he said, adding in another tweet that "today I FELT discrimination...and I spoke for all the other people who are voiceless."

association wanted to expand the role to help recognize the HFPA's philanthropic efforts throughout the year.

The brothers will be partnering with the organization named FEED to deliver nutritious meals to school-aged

children throughout the world. "Our effort is to end child hunger and for parents to help keep their kids in school," Par-

Indiana prosecutors ask if couple was paid for interviews

LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)—Indiana prosecutors want to know whether a former couple accused of abandoning their adopted daughter has been paid for interviews given to national television shows and tabloids about the case.

Prosecutors said the pair left their daughter in Indiana and moved to Canada in 2013.

Michael Barnett and Kris-

tine Barnett are charged with two counts of neglect, the Journal & Courier reported Thursday.

Prosecutors filed a request Oct. 11 asking Michael and Kristine Barnett for payment amounts they received, payment dates, and any other form of promised compensation. They also asked them to produce copies of the signed

contracts for their appearances and any other documents they might have provided to media outlets. The lawyers refiled Nov. 8 because the defendants had not responded.

Michael Barnett and Kristine Barnett, who are divorced, have appeared on several talk shows claiming the girl was an adult posing as a child before a gag issue was ordered on

them Oct. 28. The order was extended Nov. 1 to include the girl, but she had already been on "Dr. Phil" by then.

Court records and news reports show that Kristine Barnett gave an interview to the Daily Mail, a British tabloid.

Michael Barnett appeared twice on "The Dr. Oz Show," once on "Inside Edition" and once on "Good Morning

Nielsen says 13.8 million watched impeachment hearing

NEW YORK (AP)—An estimated 13.8 million people watched live coverage of diplomats William Taylor and George Kent on the first day of the House's public impeachment hearings on President Donald Trump.

The Nielsen company said 10 different networks aired live or taped coverage of the

hearing, which stretched nearly six hours on Wednesday. A second hearing is scheduled for Friday.

That compares to the 20.4 million people who watched Brett Kavanaugh's hearing for his Supreme Court nomination following sexual misconduct allegations in September 2018. Congressional testi-

mony by James Comey (19.5 million) and Michael Cohen (13.8 million) also had more viewers. Former special counsel Robert Mueller had 12.9 million viewers in July.

Fox News Channel was the most popular network for hearing coverage, even though its prime-time opinion hosts have consistently derided the im-

peachment inquiry. Nielsen said an estimated 2.9 million people watched Fox's coverage, making it the network's third most-watched day of the year.

MSNBC was second with 2.69 million, ABC had 2.01 million, CBS had 1.97 million, CNN had 1.84 million and NBC had 1.68 million, Nielsen said.

Parents are up in arms over boy's photos posted online

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have a happy, adorable 18-month-old son. Understandably, he's the light of our lives.

Early in my pregnancy, I decided to not post a pregnancy announcement or pictures of him on social media. I felt my son should have the autonomy to build his own social media presence as he saw fit. During the past year, I have felt comfortable sharing about five pictures of him with my 40-plus close friends and family who follow that social media account.

My mother-in-law has been posting pictures of my son to her social media account for a while now. It bothered me, but I didn't voice any concerns because I didn't want to overreact. A few weeks ago, my husband texted her a picture of our son, himself and me. A few hours later, it ended up on her social media account with a filter altering the picture's original color!

My husband and I became extremely upset about it, and my husband agreed to tell her that she could no longer share pictures of our son on social media. Is this appropriate? I don't want to be one of those controlling, domineering parents, but I firmly believe that my mother-in-law should have asked permission prior to sharing any pictures of our son. Am I correct?

NEW MOM IN NEW YORK

DEAR MOM: You and your husband should ask yourselves what has upset you more — that his mother shared a family picture with her circle of friends (as you have with

40-plus of yours) or that she altered the color. If you prefer she post no more pictures, ask her to stop and explain why. If it's the fact that she took artistic license, I think you are overreacting and you should let it go.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 70-year-old widower. For the past year I've been dating a woman, "Celeste," and our relationship was growing closer (we were intimate, and we seemed to be becoming a couple). Because she's a big fan of a particular performer who was going to be in our area, I bought tickets for us two months in advance. They were quite expensive. Celeste knew about it and was eager to go.

On the day of the performance, when I went to pick her up, she informed me that she wouldn't be able to go. A friend had just come into town (passing through on business) and surprised her with a visit. She apologized and promised she'd explain later that weekend.

Well, the man turns out to be a former beau she hadn't seen in about a year. Celeste seems to think I should be OK with her canceling our date, but I can't help but feel she was wrong to do it so she could spend the weekend with a former lover. (What am I? A consolation prize?) I ended the relationship over the brush-off she gave me, but she is trying to renew things. Was I wrong to take this as serious enough to end the relationship?

PERPLEXED EX IN MISSOURI

DEAR EX: You were not wrong. Celeste stood you up,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



which was, to say the least, inconsiderate of your feelings. (Did she offer to reimburse you for those tickets? I'm betting she didn't.) She's trying to renew the romance with you (for now) because her former beau's visit ended. When he called, she should have told him she had a previous commitment and honored it. That she didn't shows she is self-centered and will continue to be if you allow it.

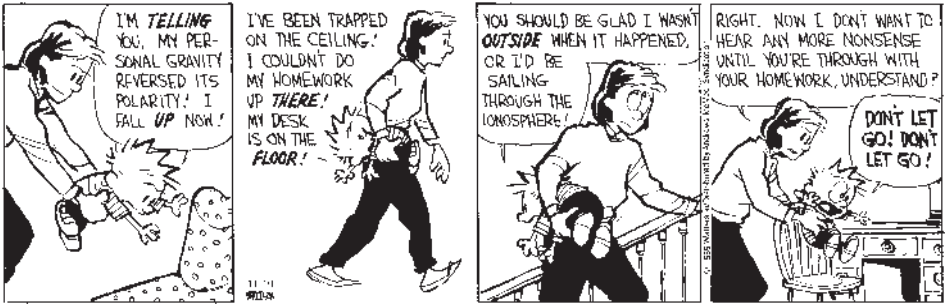
Eligible men your age are a hot commodity. It shouldn't be too hard to find someone who appreciates what you have to offer. Move on.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Angelic instrument

5 Danson of "Cheers"

8 Beach crawler

12 Athletic shoe brand

13 Yale grad

14 Wander

15 Visually interprets words

17 "So be it"

18 Business card no.

19 Comedian Joan

21 Breakfast strip

24 Rubik's baffler

25 Flair

26 Olympic skating gold medalist Tara

30 Napkin's place

31 St. — (Caribbean vacation spot)

32 Standard

33 Pretends to sing

35 "Toodle-oo!"

DOWN

1 "2001" computer

2 Bird (Pref.)

3 Wardrobe malfunction

4 Dolly of "Steel Magnolias"

5 Pond duck

6 Days of yore

7 Throws into turmoil

8 Cowardly

9 The Eternal City

10 Declare

11 Stein and Stiller

16 Poetic dusk

20 Nile bird

21 End-of-round sound

22 Jai —

23 Dogpatch creator

24 About, date-wise

26 Frank of "Frost/ Nixon"

27 Lovers' quarrel

28 Actress Winslet

29 Nest egg choices

31 Informal party request (Abbr.)

34 Wading birds

35 Swimming reptile

37 Wrong (Pref.)

38 Long tale

39 Fed. agents

40 Clarinet insert

41 Espy

44 Charged bit

45 Cartesian conclusion

46 Roman 151

47 "Krazy —"

Solution time: 22 mins.

JAW AMASS KEG
FRA PUGET EGO
KIDS STER NAN
SAT PESTLE
LAKERS SAWS
ASA YEW KATIE
TALC ETS TADA
SPEAR STV TET
SIIAH AFN FAS
CIANCY MAY
ICI KFFPSCORFF
ALA UNLET VAC
MAD PADCV AGO

Yesterday's answer 11-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 57; Meg Ryan, 58; Allison Janney, 60; Ann Curry, 63.

Happy Birthday: Hit the reset button, and review what you've done. Consider what's worth keeping. Cleaning house will result in better insight into what's possible moving forward. The change will spark enthusiasm for doing something that makes you feel alive. Face your demons head-on, and make an effort to improve your life physically, emotionally and spiritually. Your numbers are 5, 11, 21, 27, 37, 45, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Explore your options, pick up information, boost your qualifications or change your image to suit a new adventure. Branch out and see what life has to offer. A physical change will boost your confidence and push you to master something you enjoy. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An unexpected turn of events will end up surprisingly well. Getting together with someone who can offer you information or point you in the right direction will encourage you to make a move you weren't anticipating. Follow your heart. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A heart-to-heart discussion will lead to new beginnings. You can resolve business or personal problems using charm and persuasion. Invest in yourself. You'll be able to turn one of your skills into a money-maker. Do things right the first time. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your mind may be on socializing, but it should be on work, money and success. An exciting

proposal will lead to a partnership that looks like a good fit. Go over essential details first to avoid a setback later on. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be tempted to overspend or be too generous. You can't buy love and expect to gain respect. Be a straight shooter when it comes to what you want and what you are willing to offer. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out of the house to avoid tension or temptation. Attend a function that will give insight into trends or possibilities. Someone you connect with will offer you a deal that could change your life. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A decision you make won't be accepted by everyone. When faced with opposition, rely on your charm to persuade others to at least try doing things your way. Romance is in the stars and will improve your life. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A couple of adjustments to the way you live will help you feel more at home in your surroundings. It's OK to be different as long as your motives are honorable and you are willing to be responsible for your actions. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more thought into how you look, how you treat others and who you associate with. Traveling will be a learning experience. Make sure you have up-to-date documentation. Choose to keep the peace if tempers start to mount. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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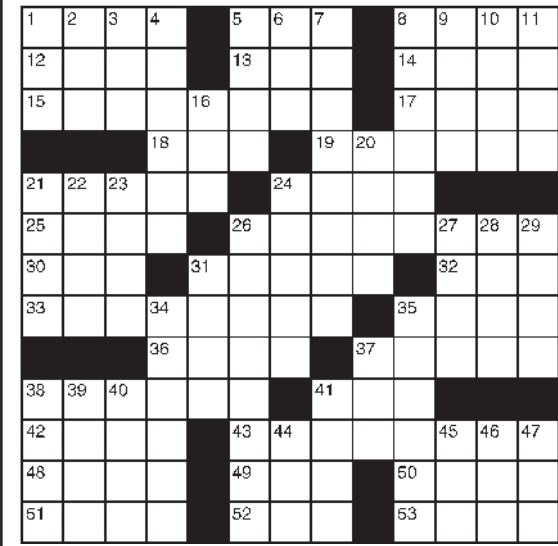
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take care of personal matters. Deal with authority figures, and put any issues that could interfere with your plans to rest. A past partner will have something interesting to offer. Reach out and see what's up and how you can be of assistance. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't trust hearsay or take anything or anyone for granted. Go to the source, and find out the details firsthand. Put your money and possessions in a safe place. An unexpected financial or legal change needs to be addressed immediately. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An unusual offer, gift or gain will take you by surprise. Don't let someone from your past interfere in your affairs. Choose to help people or organizations that interest you. Avoid indulgent behavior or promising more than you can deliver. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are unique, productive and mysterious. You are adaptable and responsive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

3 5 4 2 8 9

7 5 6

9 7 2 3 4 6

5 7 2 3 4 6

7 1 8 5 8

8 2 4 1 7

Yesterday's Answer

1 7 9 3 5 2 8 6 4
8 5 6 9 4 1 3 7 2
2 4 3 7 8 6 5 9 1
9 3 2 4 1 8 6 5 7
4 6 7 2 9 5 1 3 8
5 1 8 6 7 3 2 4 9
7 2 5 8 6 4 9 1 3
3 9 1 5 2 7 4 8 6
6 8 4 1 3 9 7 2 5

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LET'S EXHORT ONE ANOTHER Solution: 11 letters

E A E C I V D A C R E T S O F
R D T A U I E N C E H E O A
I V A F G E A N E T S I L C I
P O V U R R O E L W E L T A T
S C I E S I A H L T O I D S H
N A T L T R C T I W V R E S T
I T O O N E E C I A J T D I R
L E M E E N E R T F O R I S A
R E S P L I B E R T Y O C T E
O T S E R E T N I F F P A V H
T E C N E U L F N I U P T O C
N E G R U A D E R L L U E T I
E G A R U O C N E N O S A E R
M B O O S T C C H A M P I O N
R E E H C O M M U N I C A T E

Activate, Advice, Advocate, Assist, Audience, Boost, Champion, Cheer, Communicate, Counsel, Dedicate, Earnest, Emotion, Encourage, Enrich, Faith, Follow, Foster, Fuel, Gratify, Heart, Incite, Influence, Inspire, Interest, Joyful, Lead, Liberty, Lift, Listen, Mentor, Motivate, Persuade, Reason, Speech, Support, Urge, Vote, Words

Yesterday's Answer: Wedding

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Name: Antonio P. Sablan and Patricia A. Concepcion
Address: P. O. Box 502603, Dandan Saipan MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 287-7361 (670) 287-0064

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of) FCD-AD-
The Adoption Of:) CIVIL ACTION
J.J.C.C.) NO. 19-0433
Minor Child)
By:) NOTICE OF
Antonio P. Sablan and) HEARING
Patricia A. Concepcion)
Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing 12/02, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before the Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 1st day of October, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/S/ Deputy Clerk of Court


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
P.O. Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
E-Mail: tinianscholarshipoffice@gmail.com
Telephone: (670) 433-2200
Facsimile: (670) 433-1819

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Mayor's Office, Conference Room, San Jose Village, Tinian.

- AGENDA**
- I. PRELIMINARY
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - II. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Review of the DFEMS request for assistance for the Diver Medical Technician Training.
 - 1. Response to request for specific info.
 - III. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Supplemental Funding for SY2019-2020
 - B. Meeting with Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan
 - IV. MISCELLANEOUS
 - V. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 - VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - VII. ADJOURNMENT
- /s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

¹ We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
³ Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Senior Auditor

Job Description: Examines and analyzes accounting records to determine financial status of establishments; Reviews data regarding material assets, net worth, liabilities, capital stock, surplus, income, and expenditures; Inspects items in books of original entry to determine if accepted accounting procedures were followed in recording transactions; Counts cash on hand, inspects notes receivables and payables, negotiable securities, cancelled checks; Verifies journal and ledger entries of cash and check payments, purchases, expenses, and trial balances by examining and authenticating inventory items and price testing; Evaluates results of audit procedures performed and determines the appropriate courses of action in response to audit issues and potential findings; Prepares report for management concerning scope of audits, financial conditions found and source and application of funds; May take recommendations regarding improving operations and financial positions of company; May supervise and coordinate activities of auditors specializing in specific operations of establishments undergoing audit; and Prepare audited financial statements.

Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree in Accounting and at least 5 years of relevant work experience in auditing works.

Job Site: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit a professional resume to:

BURGER & COMER, P.C.
Office Address: Suite 203, MHII Building, Marina Heights, Business Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) RFP20-CHCC/MSO-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM
“BULK PROCUREMENT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES & HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES-COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION-MATERIAL SUPPLY OFFICE”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID ITB20-CHCC/ELC/BEH-001
NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 20, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM
“BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH’S LABORATORY UNIT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

WHATZIT Solution: Turn a blind eye

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune’s Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?TM

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

bl!nd

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Pats get long-awaited revenge on Eagles



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Julian Edelman threw a go-ahead 15-yard touchdown pass to Phillip Dorsett and the New England Patriots rallied for a 17-10 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

Tom Brady threw for 216 yards, leading New England (9-1) back from a 10-0 deficit, but it was Edelman, the Patriots' wide receiver, who found a target in the end zone. The Pats defense sacked Carson Wentz five times and forced one turnover.

Wentz couldn't get much going without his two best receivers and top running back sidelined by injuries. Nelson Agholor couldn't make a twisting catch on Wentz's fourth-down heave into the end zone from the Patriots 26 with just under a minute left.

The Eagles (5-5) got the ball back and advanced to their 42 but Wentz's desperation pass fell incomplete.

This was nothing like the thrilling matchup between the two teams in Super Bowl 52. Nick Foles led the Eagles to a 41-33 victory over the Patriots to capture the franchise's first NFL title since 1960. The teams set or tied 29 Super Bowl records, including most yards in any game (1,151) in league history.

Neither team could get in sync on offense in the rematch.

After settling for three field goals in the first half, the Patriots turned to a trick play.

Brady drove them to the Eagles 15 on the opening possession of the third quarter. Facing a third-and-11, Brady tossed a backward pass to Edelman. The former Kent State quarterback fired a perfect pass to Dorsett, who was alone in the end zone. It was Edelman's second career TD pass. The other came in a playoff win over Baltimore in January 2015.

Vikings 27, Broncos 23

In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Vikings erased a 20-0 halftime deficit with touchdowns on each of their four drives in the second half, fending off the Denver Broncos by forcing three straight incomplete passes in the end zone over the final 10 seconds to preserve the victory.

This was the first time in five years—a span of 100 games including the playoffs—that an NFL team won after trailing by 20 or more points after two quarters.

Kirk Cousins went 29 for 35 for 319 yards and three scores for the Vikings (8-3), overcoming a system-wide failure in the first half that included



AP
New England Patriots' Benjamin Watson (84) is tackled by Philadelphia Eagles' Nate Gerry (47) and Rodney McLeod (23) during the first half of an NFL game, Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019, in Philadelphia.

a lost fumble of his during a sack that led to one of three field goals by Brandon McManus for the Broncos (3-7).

Ravens 41, Texans 7

In Baltimore, Lamar Jackson threw four touchdown passes, ran for 86 yards and helped the Ravens roll to their sixth straight victory, over Houston.

The game was billed as a matchup between first-place AFC teams and two of the best double-threat quarterbacks in the NFL.

Jackson and the Baltimore defense made it a one-sided affair, and the Ravens (8-2) are riding their longest winning streak since a seven-game run in 2000, their first Super Bowl season.

After throwing three touchdown passes to put Baltimore up 21-0 in the third quarter, Jackson followed with his most impressive play of the day: a 39-yard run in which he broke six tackles, weaving through the Houston secondary as if playing keep-away with the football.

49ers 36, Cardinals 26

In Santa Clara, Jimmy Garoppolo threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Jeff Wilson Jr. with 31 seconds left for his fourth TD pass of the game and San Francisco rallied for a victory over Arizona.

Garoppolo connected with Wilson over the middle for the go-ahead score one play after the Niners (9-1) narrowly converted on a third-and-3 pass that went to replay review.

Instead of being ruled short and having to decide whether to kick a tying field goal or go for it on fourth down, San Francisco had a new set of downs and took advantage on Wilson's first career touchdown catch.

Rams 17, Bears 7

In Los Angeles, Todd Gurley and Malcolm Brown ran for touchdowns and Los Angeles was able to ground out a victory over Chicago.

Gurley tied a season high with 97 yards on 25 carries, scoring on a 1-yard carry up the middle with 3:28 remaining in the first half to extend Los Angeles' lead to 10-0.

After Tarik Cohen's third-quarter touchdown catch brought Chicago to 10-7, the Rams (6-4) put it out of reach with 3:35 remaining in the fourth quarter on Brown's 5-yard run.

Jared Goff was 11 of 18 for 173 yards and an interception. That is the least attempts the fourth-year quarterback has had when he has started.

Saints 34, Buccaneers 17

In Tampa Bay, Drew Brees threw for 228 yards and three touchdowns to lead New Orleans over the Buccaneers.

The NFC South leaders (8-2) rebounded from a 26-9 loss to struggling Atlanta, with NFL receptions leader Michael Thomas becoming the first player in league history with 90-plus catches in the first 10 games of a season and

Brees tossing TD passes of 16 yards to Thomas, 3 yards to Jared Cook and 6 yards to Ted Ginn Jr. after being held out of the end zone by the Falcons.

Safety Marcus Williams put an exclamation point on a strong defensive performance, returning the third of New Orleans' four interceptions 55 yards for a touchdown that put the Saints up 34-17 with just over five minutes remaining.

Cowboys 35, Lions 27

In Detroit, Dak Prescott threw for 444 yards and three touchdowns, lifting Dallas over the Lions.

The Cowboys (6-4) have won three of four games, leaning on the league's top offense.

Dallas has had balance with the ball, but Prescott was passing with such ease that it wasn't necessary to try to move the ball much on the ground in the Motor City.

The Lions (3-6-1) were without Matthew Stafford for a second straight game and have lost six of seven.

Stafford's backup, Jeff Driskel, played well enough to give his team a shot to compete. He threw a 25-yard TD pass to Marvin Jones with 5:49 left to pull Detroit within eight points.

Colts 33, Jaguars 13

In Indianapolis, Jacoby Brissett threw one touchdown pass, ran for another score and used an impressive ground game to get Indianapolis back on track with a victory over Jacksonville.

The Colts (6-4) ended a two-game losing streak and pulled back into a tie with Houston for the AFC South lead.

Jacksonville (4-6) has lost four of six, this one coming despite the return of starting quarterback Nick Foles. He had missed the previous eight games with a broken left collarbone.

And the Colts made it look easy with their tag-team ground game.

Bills 37, Dolphins 20

In Miami, Josh Allen tied a career high with three touchdown passes and ran for another score to help the Buffalo complete a season sweep of the Dolphins.

Allen's TD tosses covered 40 and 9 yards to John Brown, and 23 yards to Dawson Knox. Allen also scored on an 8-yard run, and he had a 36-yard run to set up a field goal.

Miami couldn't keep up against Buffalo's smothering defense. The Bills totaled a season-high seven sacks and allowed only 23 yards rushing.

The victory gave the Bills (7-3) their best 10-game record since 1999, but they won for only the second time in the past four games.

Falcons 29, Panthers 3

In Charlotte, Atlanta intercepted Kyle Allen four times and sacked him five times, Kenjon Barner returned a punt 78 yards for a touchdown and the Falcons beat Carolina for their second straight lopsided win against an NFC South foe.

The Falcons (3-7) had only

two interceptions all season—and none since Week 2 against the Eagles—but intercepted Allen three times in the first half to build a 20-0 lead.

Matt Ryan improved to 7-1 in his past eight starts against the Panthers, throwing for 311 yards including a 6-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Ridley.

Ridley found huge holes in the Carolina defense, finishing with eight catches for 143 yards and rookie Qadree Ollison added a 2-yard TD run for the Falcons.

Jets 34, Redskins 17

In Landover, Sam Darnold more than made up for an ill-timed interception by throwing for 293 yards and a career-high four touchdowns, and New York routed rookie quarterback Dwayne Haskins and Washington for its second consecutive victory.

Darnold was 19 of 30 passing and tossed touchdowns to Daniel Brown, Robby Anderson, Ryan Griffin and former Redskins receiver Jamison Crowder. Despite getting picked off deep in his own territory by Jon Bostic, the 2018 third overall pick bounced back and now has 11 TDs and 10 INTs this season.

The Jets (3-7) sacked Haskins six times, including three by safety Jamal Adams, and linebacker Neville Hewitt intercepted him in his return to the lineup.

Raiders 17, Bengals 10

In Oakland, Derek Carr passed for 292 yards and a touchdown, Josh Jacobs had his fourth 100-yard game in the past six weeks, and the Raiders beat winless Cincinnati.

Maxx Crosby had a team rookie-record four sacks as the Raiders harassed Bengals rookie quarterback Ryan Finley and shut down Cincinnati's offense after Joe Mixon had given it a lift in the first half.

Oakland (6-4) won its third straight to move into a first-place tie with Kansas City in the AFC West. The Chiefs play the Chargers on Monday night in Mexico City.

Cincinnati is headed in the opposite direction. The Bengals are the NFL's lone team without a victory, and their 0-10 record matches the 1993 team for the worst start in franchise history.

Kings snap Celtics' 10-game win streak



SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The Boston Celtics were an unlucky bounce away from extending an historic start to their season.

Instead, the Sacramento Kings walked away with a huge victory.

Buddy Hield scored a season-high 35 points, Richaun Holmes hit two free throws with 13.3 seconds remaining to give Sacramento the lead, and the Kings snapped the Celtics' 10-game winning streak with a 100-99 victory Sunday.

Marcus Smart had a chance to win it for Boston, but his runner in the lane bounced around the rim before trickling off as the buzzer sounded.

"The ball just felt like it sat on the rim forever," Smart said. "I thought it was going in. I think everybody thought it was going in and it just rolled out. It was just one of those games."

The Celtics (10-2) lost for the first time since their Oct. 23 opener at Philadelphia. The only other team in NBA history to drop its opener and then rattle off 10 consecutive wins was the 1979-80 Milwaukee Bucks.

Harrison Barnes had 13 points and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 12 points and 10 assists for the Kings (5-7), who lost a similarly close game two nights earlier to the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Hield hit seven 3-pointers and finished just two points off his career high. But Kings coach Luke Walton was most fired up about Hield's defense on a day Sacramento held Boston to 42% shooting (34 for 82) and just 18 points in the first quarter.

"Buddy obviously was spectacular," Walton said. "We all know he can score, and he's going to have nights like this. But I thought he was so committed to the team winning. The way he was defending, just his all-around game."

Jaylen Brown scored 18 points and Kemba Walker had 15 for Boston. Jayson Tatum and Daniel Theis each added 14.

Down four to start the second half, the Celtics outscored the Kings 29-21 in the third quarter to take a 75-71 advantage entering the fourth.

With 13 seconds remaining and Boston up 99-98, Holmes and Smart went to the floor battling for a rebound and Smart was called for a foul that set up Holmes for the free throws.

Celtics coach Brad Stevens challenged the foul call but it was upheld upon a replay review.

Lakers 122, Hawks 101
In Los Angeles, LeBron James



Sacramento Kings guard Buddy Hield, left, and Richaun Holmes, right battle the Boston Celtics' Daniel Theis for the rebound during the first half of an NBA game in Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019.

wasn't about to send Kobe Bryant home disappointed.

With the former Lakers great sitting courtside, the team's current ranking superstar scored 12 of his 33 points during a breathtaking opening nine minutes for Los Angeles, which raced to a 25-point lead and handed the Atlanta Hawks their second ugly loss in 24 hours at Staples Center.

"I'm just trying to put on a show for him and give him a reason to be like, 'OK, we might come to another game,'" James said.

The 34-year-old James said it was "fantastic" to play in front of Bryant, who helped the Lakers win five NBA titles during his 20-year career.

"I know he came to a game last year," James said. "Just having him in the building, knowing what he did to this franchise, and for me and my teammates what it means to be a part of Laker Nation, the Laker family, it's a beautiful thing. I was one of the kids who had the chance to come out straight out of high school. He did it and I was just watching him. It's just so surreal for me, a kid from Akron to be able to have a guy like Kobe take time out of his day. Even at this point in my career it's still special."

James joined the Lakers last season.

"I became part of the family and he welcomed me with open arms as well as everyone else. Just to have that support from one of the greatest Lak-

ers to ever play is just special to me," James said.

In a quarter full of highlights, James' biggest play provided his first points. After JaVale McGee blocked Jabari Parker's shot, James grabbed the ball, passed to Danny Green and took the return pass for a slam dunk that brought the crowd to its feet two minutes in.

James added two layups, a 3-point shot and a three-point play to help propel the Lakers to their 25-point lead with 3:17 still to play in the open-

ing quarter.

He also fed Kentavious Caldwell-Pope for consecutive baskets. James finished with 12 assists for his 11th double-double this season.

"He's been at just an extraordinarily high level and dominating," coach Frank Vogel said of James. "His effort on the defensive end has really spread throughout the group and the group has really bought into being dominant on the defensive end of the floor. We saw that in the first quarter with how we controlled the

game from the start. Offensively, the shot making, his decision making, zero turnovers, 12 assists, I mean are you kidding me?"

The Hawks were routed 150-101 on Saturday night by the Clippers, who played without Kawhi Leonard.

Nuggets 131, Grizzlies 114

In Memphis, Jamal Murray rebounded from a poor shooting night with a season-best 39 points in Denver's victory over the Grizzlies.

Paul Millsap had 23 points and Juancho Hernangomez finished with 15 to help Denver win for the sixth time in seven games. Jaren Jackson Jr. led Memphis with 22 points, hitting a career-high five 3-pointers.

Magic 125, Wizards 121

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic had 30 points and 17 rebounds and Evan Fournier added 25 points and nine assists to help the Magic hold off Washington.

Markelle Fultz scored 19 points and Terrance Ross added 15 in Orlando's fourth victory in five games.

Bradley Beal had 34 points and eight assists for Washington. C.J. Miles had 21 points, and Davis Bertans 15.

Pelicans 108, Warriors 100

In New Orleans, J.J. Redick scored 26 points, hitting his sixth 3-pointer of the game from the left corner with 1:09 left, and the Pelicans beat Golden State.

Jrue Holiday had 22 points despite a difficult night shooting and also had nine assists and eight rebounds.

Eric Paschall scored 30 points for injury-depleted Golden State. The Warriors have lost seven in row to fall to an NBA-worst 2-12.

76ers 114, Cavaliers 95

In Cleveland, Tobias Harris scored 27 points, Joel Embiid had 14 and Philadelphia routed Cleveland.

Collin Sexton had 17 points for Cleveland. The Cavaliers nearly pulled off an upset in Philadelphia on Tuesday night before falling 98-97.

Ronaldo scores 99th goal as Portugal qualifies for Euro 2020

LUXEMBOURG (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo took his career tally to 99 international goals on Sunday as Portugal qualified for the 2020 European Championship with a 2-0 win at Luxembourg.

The Juventus star rushed to tap in a shot by teammate Diogo Jota that was just inches from going over the goal-line in the 86th minute. The nudge left Jota without his first international goal, and Ronaldo one more strike from the century mark.

Bruno Fernandes got Portugal's first goal against the flow of play in the 39th when he scored from a long pass by Bruno Silva.

Luxembourg had outplayed Portugal until that point, dealing with the poor field conditions better than the defending European champions.

Portugal advanced to

Euro 2020 in second place in Group B. Ukraine had already gone through as the group winner.

"Our performance was good given the conditions," Fernandes said. "We knew this game would be based on quantity rather than quality. We battled a lot and our great spirit is what helped us to win."

On Thursday, Ronaldo scored a hat trick to lead a 6-0 rout of Lithuania, but he was largely kept in check by Luxembourg.

Also Sunday, Serbia drew 2-2 with Ukraine to finish the group in third place. Serbia still has a chance to reach the tournament through the play-off process.

Ukraine finished with 20 points. Portugal had 17, Serbia 14, Luxembourg 4, and

Lithuania 1.

Meanwhile, with their tickets already booked to next summer's big tournament, France and Turkey picked up wins in Sunday's Euro qualifying action, which saw defending champions Portugal clinch qualification.

Early on, Bayern Munich's Corentin Tolisso gave the impression that the home fans were in for a long night at the inaugurating Air Albania Stadium, opening the score just eight minutes in with a well-placed header. In the 31st minute, an unfamiliar face, Leo Dubois, connected with Antoine Griezmann, who slotted the ball into the bottom-right corner. France finish the qualifiers leaders of Group H with 25 points. Throughout

the 10 matches, the world champions lost only once, a 2-0 loss against Turkey.

Real Valladolid's Enes Unal scored a first-half brace as Turkey coasted past Andorra 2-0. Turkey, who clinched a spot next summer after finishing Group H two points behind France, controlled possession and chances at goal.

Everton's Gylfi Sigurdsson scored the visitor's second and winning goal in the second half, as Iceland walked away from Zimbru Stadium with a 2-1 win on Sunday.

With 19 points throughout 10 games, Rúnar Kristinsson and company felt five points short of qualifying directly for next year's competition. That said, they'll partake in the Euro 2020 playoffs, looking to squeeze their way in.



MLB confirms whistling in ALCS opener



HOUSTO—
The New York Yankees accused the Houston Astros of using whistles to convey stolen signs during the recent American League Championship Series, and it turns out they weren't totally off base.

MLB investigators did find evidence of whistling in footage of Game 1 of the ALCS, but they weren't able to identify the source.

Back in mid-October, when the Yankees and Astros were playing in the ALCS, Martino reported that the Yankees dugout had noticed distinct whistling noises before certain pitches were thrown during Game 1. Once they figured it out, they started chirping at the Astros dugout. At the end of the game, they asked MLB to look into it.

MLB had an official on site during the game who didn't report any whistling, and after an investigation the league announced that it hadn't found evidence of any wrongdoing on Houston's part. However, there was more to it. According to Martino, MLB had heard whistling during a review of ALCS Game 1 footage, but they were unable to determine whether it had come from a fan at Minute Maid Park or an Astros employee.

Twitter user Jomboy posted several videos from Game 1 of the ALCS last week, and seems to have identified the whistling.

The whistle in that clip sounds clear, and it appears to come just before Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman re-



leases a pitch. However, even with the whistles coming at vital points, it's impossible to determine who was whistling and for what purpose.

In a subsequent video posted by Jomboy which features more pitches from the same at-bat, the original whistler inspired other people to whistle,

which significantly muddies the water. Martino reported that after the Yankees complained, the whistling didn't occur in Game 2.

If the whistling was the only sign-stealing accusation the Astros were dealing with right now, not much would happen. MLB has reportedly reviewed

the footage and wasn't able to determine the source of the whistling, which would put an end to things.

However, the Astros are now dealing with at least three kinds of sign-stealing accusations. There's the whistling. There's the trash can lid banging, which dates back to their

2017 playoff run. There's the accusation that they used video to capture and decode opposing teams' signs before they were conveyed via whistle or trash can lid. And there's the brand new accusation that Kevin Goldstein, a special assistant to Astros GM Jeff Luhnow, sent emails to scouts asking for their help stealing signs from opposing teams.

Any one of those accusations would be concerning, but it would still be easy to quickly punish the Astros with little fanfare or explanation (just like MLB swiftly punished the Boston Red Sox in 2018 for using an Apple Watch to steal signs). With multiple allegations of sign stealing against the Astros, along with the accusation that they used electronics to help them do it, there's no way that MLB can ignore it.

MLB is still investigating the Astros, but as the list of things they need to investigate them for grows larger, one thing is clear: This scandal isn't going away.

Bold move from Braves

Meanwhile, two weeks into free agency, the Braves have been more active than any team. Their biggest move was Thursday's signing of left-hander Will Smith, the top reliever on the market.

Prior to that, Atlanta brought back three of its own would-be-free-agents in right fielder

AP
Houston Astros' Carlos Correa reacts after hitting a three-run home run against the New York Yankees during the sixth inning of Game 4 of baseball's American League Championship Series, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, in New York.

Nick Markakis, catcher Tyler Flowers and reliever Darren O'Day.

The Smith signing is definitely the highest impact move of the bunch and makes the Braves a lot better. His deal is for a reported \$40 million over three years. He is coming off his first All-Star appearance and back-to-back stellar years. He was 6-0 with 34 saves and a 2.76 ERA for the Giants in 2019, he struck out 96 in 65 1/3 innings.

Bryce Harper will face Smith many times over the next three years. The teams meet 19 times per season and you'd figure Smith will face Harper in a high-leverage situation whenever the game is late and close. Harper is 0 for 8 with five strikeouts lifetime against Smith. Smith will also factor into plenty of matchups with Juan Soto.

The Braves tried various closing formulas in 2018. They went through Arodys Vizcaino, A.J. Minter, Luke Jackson, Shane Greene and Melancon. For most of the season, the ninth-inning was a weakness, yet the Braves still won 97 games.

Melancon will return in 2020 and could still close, but Smith is another very good option if he falters. It would probably make more sense for the Braves to try to use Melancon as the ninth-inning guy to free up Smith for high-leverage spots against lefties in the eighth or even seventh inning.

Why did Smith sign so quickly? For a couple reasons. First, \$40 million over three years is a sweet contract for a reliever. He may not have beaten this deal even by waiting. But his representatives also effectively leveraged Thursday's qualifying offer deadline against teams interested in Smith. There was at least a threat that Smith could accept the Giants' one-year, \$17.8 million qualifying offer if a better alternative was not presented by Nov. 14. That created more urgency on the Braves' part.

Removing Smith's name from the free-agent relief market further depletes an already light market. The top two potential free-agent relievers were set to be Smith and Aroldis Chapman, but Smith is a Brave in mid-November and Chapman returned to the Yankees on a new deal.

Tsitsipas beats Thiem in 3 sets to win ATP Finals

LONDON (AP)—Three years after coming to the ATP Finals as a hitting partner to the top pros, Stefanos Tsitsipas is leaving the tournament as champion.

Tsitsipas rallied to beat Dominic Thiem 6-7 (6), 6-2, 7-6 (4) on Sunday for the biggest title of his career, becoming the youngest champion at the season-ending event in 18 years.

"I remember myself watching this event on TV and thinking, 'Oh, these guys have done an insane year to be playing here,'" said the 21-year-old Tsitsipas, who was making his first appearance at the tournament. "And now I'm in the position to be champion, so it feels awesome."

It's been quite a journey for Tsitsipas, who first met Thiem at the O2 Arena in 2016 when he was the world's top-ranked junior and was invited to be a hitting partner for the ATP Finals participants.

"That is unbelievable," Ts-

itsipas said when reminded of that day. "I just remembered [that], first time I met Dominic was I came here as a sparring partner. I think my first hit was with Dominic. It's unbelievable, isn't it? We are now facing each other in the final."

It was quite a final, too.

The 21-year-old Greek bounced back from dropping a tight first set by racing out to a 4-0 lead in the second, and then held off the Austrian's comeback in the third.

Tsitsipas couldn't capitalize on another early break and a 3-1 lead in the deciding set but won the last three points of the tiebreaker, clinching the win when Thiem sent a return wide.

"I missed some very close balls in the tiebreak," Thiem said. "But I cannot do anything now about it. It was a great match from both of us."

Stefanos Tsitsipas lifts the

ATP Finals trophy in London.

Julian Finney/Getty Images

The win caps a breakthrough season for Tsitsipas, who reached the semifinals of the Australian Open, won two ATP titles and became the first Greek man to break into the top 10.

He also leaves London with \$2.6 million in prize money for this win and joins a group of young players—including last year's ATP Finals champion Alexander Zverev and US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev—who are seen as the top up-and-coming talents and challengers to the sport's Big Three of Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

The Greek has already grown quite the fan base, partly because of a Bjorn Borg-style haircut and partly because of an aggressive playing style that is a bit old-school with frequent forays to the net.



"He's great for tennis, because he has a very attractive game style, one-handed backhand, comes in a lot," Thiem said. "It's great that he's up on the top. It's great that he's going to fight for the big titles in the future. I'm 100% sure of that. I'm also very sure of the fact that I can challenge him in every single match we're going to play. I really hope that we're going to have a lot of big matches coming, the two of us."

Thiem beat both Federer and five-time winner Djokovic in the group stage but lost another big final after twice finishing runner-up to Nadal at the French Open.

This one was much closer than his losses to Nadal, though, which made it tougher to swallow.

"That's why it's probably mentally the most brutal sport existing, because you can play such a great match and end up losing in the championship match," Thiem said.

GCA on a roll in middle school volleyball

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



Grace Christian Academy is still unscathed after winning two matches in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Eagles, who cruised to a 21-0, 21-0 victory over Tanapag Middle School in their debut in the league last Nov. 13, faced off Mount Carmel School 2 and Chacha Oceanview Middle School 2 and defeated both teams after only two sets.

In the match against Chacha 2, the Lady Eagles took



an easy 21-11, 21-11 triumph. Versus Mt. Carmel 2, GCA played in a tough match with the Eagles notching a 21-16 victory in the first set and completing the sweep with a 21-18 win in the second.

Mt. Carmel 2 also had twin matches last weekend and pulled off a close win in its other game. The Knights eked out a 23-21 triumph over Saipan International School in the first set and needed extra

points, too to edge the Geckos in the second, 22-20.

Also competing last Saturday were Dandan Middle School 1 and 2, Hopwood Middle School 1, 2 and 3, Tanapag Chacha 1, Mt. Carm-

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
A Grace Christian Academy player returns the ball to Mt. Carmel School 2 during their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

el 1, Agape Christian School, and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School.

MCS 1 cruised past Chacha 1, 21-7, 21-7. The Knights made it two in a row after downing Agape, 21-17, 21-3.

Hopwood 3 also topped ACS in two sets, taking the first, 21-8, and winning an even easier second set, 21-6. Hopwood 3 went 2-for-2 last weekend after cruising to a 21-5, 21-2 win over Dandan 2.

Hopwood 1 prevailed against Chacha 1, 21-7, 21-4, while FMS also bagged a straight set victory over Dandan 2, 21-12, 21-10.

Dandan 1 came out victorious against Tanapag and Chacha 2. Versus Tanapag, Dandan 1 eased its way to a 21-7, 21-11 triumph. Chacha 2 proved to be a harder competitor as the match was played in three sets. Dandan 1 drew first blood, 21-12, but Chacha 2 tied the game with a 21-18 win in the second set. Dandan 1 eventually regained its bearing and topped Chacha 2 in the deciding third set, 15-10.

In the final match of the day, SIS prevailed over Hopwood 2 in an extended duel, 21-9, 22-24, 15-11.

KANOA

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game and completed the hat trick in the second half after hitting the board in the 33rd and 60th minute. Xavier Lee handed MP United its second goal in the fourth and duplicated Linden's feat after finding his target in the 39th and 66th minute, while William Lee and Sosa scored in the seventh and 45th, respectively.

Shirley's, which failed to earn a single win this season, drew

two goals from Juvn Bisek and one from Tristan Kapwich. Juvn lit up the board in the 15th and 42nd minute, while Kapwich had his goal in the 41st.

BOYS U15 Kanoa 10, Shirley's 0

Kanoa capped its dominance in the boys U15 age group this season with a 10-0 whipping of Shirley's last Saturday.

The division champion wrapped up the double-round robin competition with a 7-1-0 record, while Shirley's has

yet to win a single game with only one match left (make-up versus Matansa this Saturday) in the season.

Six different players scored in Kanoa's demolition of Shirley's with Jim Kurt Maniago leading the way after drilling three goals. Brian Lubao and Chad Escaner had two apiece, while Merrick Toves, Lester Bata, and Lubao logged one each.

TanHoldings 3, Matansa 0

TanHoldings moved from third

to second place in the team standings after shutting down Matansa in the other match in the division last weekend.

TanHoldings now has a 5-0-2 record and will have its last game of the season this Saturday against the third-running MP United.

Kohtar Goto knocked in a pair for TanHoldings, which got its other goal from Anthony Bergancia. Goto scored his first in the second minute and the second in the 43rd or a minute after Bergancia gave TanHoldings a 2-0 lead.

2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League

TEAM STANDINGS (As of Nov. 18)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
TanHoldings	9	0	0	60	17	43	27
Kanoa	6	0	3	33	29	4	18
MP United	2	1	6	38	31	7	7
Shirley's	0	1	8	18	72	-54	1

BOYS U15 DIVISION

CLUB	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	7	1	0	45	8	37	22
TanHoldings	5	0	2	19	12	7	15
MP United	4	1	2	27	13	14	13
Matansa	1	0	6	8	20	-12	3
Shirley's	0	0	7	7	53	-46	0

FAVORED

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reached the finals following a 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory against Takeru Jim in the other semis pairing, while Kado-kura also outclassed the latter in the consolation match, 8-6, to round out the Top 3 in the division.

In the boys U18 singles, Schorr bagged a 4-0 mark to prevail in the round-robin competition. The No. 1 seed first played against Sean Lee last Saturday and coasted to a 6-0, 6-0 win. Next up for Schorr was Ken Song and the former also took only two sets to win, 6-1, 7-6 (4). For his third match, the 17-year-old dueled No. 2 seed Jimin Woo and labored his way through a 6-2, 3-6, 13-11 in the morning game win to clinch the championship. Schorr kept his perfect record after getting a free victory over Malika Miyawaki (walkover).

Woo and Song joined Schorr in the Top 3 as the former finished with a 3-1 mark. Song bagged third place, as he ended up with an even 2-2 slate following a 6-3, 6-3 win over Lee last Sunday.

In the boys U16 singles, which drew the most participants with 11, Kim did not drop a single set en route to notching the division champi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Anthony Gregoire, left, gestures to Jun Cheol Hwang after scoring a point against Hyun Min Cho and Andy Kim in the boys U16 doubles game in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

on. He capped his perfect run in the competition with a 6-1, 6-3 win over No. 4 Jun Wang in the finals.

Kim reached the title game after eliminating Hyun Min

Cho, 6-4, 6-2, and David Kwon, 6-4, 6-2, while Wang prevailed against Eugene Park, 6-4, 1-6, 10-3, and then stunned No. 2 seed Daniel Kang in the semis, 6-1, 6-4.

FINALS

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faltered in their last-ditch efforts to hand IT&E the victory in regulation.

Then in overtime, the game remained a nip-and-tuck battle with Jack Aranda hitting the first shot in the extra time to give the lead back to IT&E. 83-81. However, Saipan Vegas quickly countered off Santos' layup, while a deuce from Aiferson Atan after an IT&E miss put the eventual champion on top, 85-83.

Saipan Vegas' hold to the lead, however, was short-lived, as Errol Peredo answered with his own field goal for another deadlock, 85-all. The seesaw battle continued with IT&E regaining the upper hand, 87-85, after Flores' bucket, but the match was tied for the nth time following a pair of free throws from Jack Lizama with a little over a minute left in the extension.

A layup from Douglas Schmidt swung the lead back to Vegas, 89-87, but IT&E refused to give up with Flores making a point-blank shot for the final standoff, 89-all, down to the last 53 seconds of the exciting game.

Santos, who was held to 6 points in the entire first half, continued to redeem himself in the second and the overtime, as his layup against a couple of IT&E defenders put Saipan Vegas in the lead, 91-89, down to the last 40 sec-



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Saipan Vegas' Douglas Schmidt drives against three IT&E defenders during Game 2 of their title series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

onds and change in the match.

Saipan Vegas went on to keep the shaky lead, as IT&E failed to cash in on multiple opportunities to score, including a trip to the foul line where Flore missed two important free throws after getting a foul from Atan. Rabasto also faltered on his layup in the ensuing play, while Saipan Vegas wisely moved the ball around and avoided being fouled by IT&E defenders as time expired, handing the eventual champion an unbeaten record in the inaugural league.

Saipan Vegas swept the regular season, getting nine wins and took four in the playoffs, as they also swept Caravan's

in the semis. In the finals, Saipan Vegas coasted to a 91-69 victory in Game 1 before laboring through an overtime win in Game 2.

Schmidt top-scored for Saipan Vegas in Game 2 with his 25 points, while Santos added 19.

Saipan Vegas 91—Schmidt 25, Santos 19, Basa 17, Lizama 14, Bondoc 5, Atan 4, Sablan 4, Deleon Guerrero 1.

IT&E 89—Rabasto 15, De-mapan 14, Peredo 13, Flores 12, Devero 10, Barbo 9, Esdrelon 6, Aranda 5, Talania 5.

Scoring by quarters: 24-14, 31-34, 60-62, 81-81, 91-89 (OT)



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long-awaited
revenge on
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**Kings snap
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Favored players deliver

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

There was no upset in the boys singles event in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic, as favored players lived up to high expectations after topping their respective divisions over the weekend.

Anthony Gregoire led the list of seeded players who clinched singles titles in Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's first tournament of the 2019-2020 season after ruling the boys U14 contest, as he posted a perfect record (4-0) in the round-robin competition.

Gregoire flew in from Guam just for the weekend event and

notched back-to-back victories last Saturday, dominating Sunny Kang first in the morning match at the Fiesta Resort & Spa court, 6-0, 6-0. He returned at the Fiesta court in the afternoon and eased past Min Seong Kim, 6-1, 6-1. For his third straight game at the Fiesta court, Gregoire faced No. 2 seed Jun Cheol Hwang and won, 7-6 (4), 6-2, to virtually seal the division championship last Sunday morning. The Guam-based CNMI junior player went on to sweep his singles assignment after routing Ki Suk Lee in the afternoon match at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court, 6-0, 6-0.

In other results, Robbie Schorr,

Andy Kim, and June Yu, who are all seeded first in their respective divisions, duplicated Gregoire's undefeated records.

Yu eked out a 4-6, 6-1, 10-8 triumph over Wataru Kadokura in the boys U12 singles semifinals last Saturday and then registered a 6-2, 6-4 win over No. 2 seed Nason Wessel in the finals. Wessel

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robbie Schorr leans forward to return a shot to Ken Song during their boys U18 singles game in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic last Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan court.



Finals sweep for Saipan Vegas



By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Saipan Vegas swept IT&E in their title series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League after a thrilling 91-89 overtime win in Game 2 last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Spectators were kept at the edge of their seats all night long, as Saipan Vegas and IT&E battled back and forth and needed extra five min-



utes to settle the closely fought match.

Saipan Vegas eventually delivered in the homestretch, thanks to Coby Santos' key

baskets. The Mythical Five Team member scored the basket that sent the game into overtime and also hit the go-ahead in the extension to help Saipan Vegas finish the best-of-three championship series.

With Saipan Vegas behind, 79-81, Santos charged through IT&E defenders and made a layup to knot the count, 81-81. After Santos' crucial basket, IT&E was left with 10 seconds to hit the game-winning shot that would have brought the finals series to a deciding Game 3. However, both Gerald Flores and Sean Rabasto

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Undefeated records for TanHoldings, Kanoa

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club and Kanoa Football Club finished their campaign in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League with unbeaten records.

TanHoldings earned a 9-0-0 win-draw-loss mark in the co-ed U12 division after a 10-2 victory over Kanoa in a make-up game last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Mark Ryan Costales and Kai-thlyn Chavez teamed up in TanHoldings' strong finish after com-

binning for all, but one of the squad's goals. Costales scored five goals, while Chavez chipped in four, and Monico Claridades contributed one.

John Paul Lizama delivered the pair of goals for Kanoa, which finished the season in second place with its 6-0-3 mark.



In the other make-up match in the division last weekend, MP United crushed Shirley's FC, 8-3.

Xavier Lee and Miles Linden bagged three goals apiece, while William Sosa and William Lee registered one each. Linden scored right in the first minute of the

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CONTRIBUTING PHOTO

TanHoldings Football Club players and coach Roberto Ong pose for a group photo after beating Kanoa Football Club and earning a perfect record in the co-ed U12 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



Saipan Vegas' Coby Santos pulls up for a one-hander against IT&E's Ivan Devero, while the latter's teammate Bart Demapan looks on during Game 2 of their title series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Sunday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.